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Thursday, February 13 - Wednesday, February 19, 2014

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Town fights rising waters with weather set to get worse

BATTLING ON



• St Helen's Mill shows the extent of the flooding (Picture by Adam Flinn)

FOR the second time this year, Abingdon's residents and businesses have been affected by the floods as wet weather continues to cause chaos across the country.

At the time of writing, a flood warning was in place for the River Thames in the town, while a flood alert had been issued on the River Ock between Watchfield and Abingdon. Sandbags have

By Adam Flinn

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been supplied to dozens of properties close to the rivers in the past week, many of which have escaped the worst of the flooding. On Saturday and Sunday, Tesco's car park was underwater and access to the store greatly restricted, with St Helen's Wharf and the

Abbey Meadows also affected by the rising water levels.

Abingdon Town Council leader Sandy Lovatt praised the work done since the floods in the summer of 2007, when water flooded numerous homes in the town.

He said: "The rivers and waterways have been properly managed and I'd praise the Ock Valley Flood Group, who have done so much to keep the

Ock clear.

"The town council put some money towards it, but on the whole it's them who have done the work. That sort of preparation has kept the wolf from the door, as it were, and hopefully these current storms will be dealt with in the same way they were before."

Oxford West and Abingdon MP Nicola Blackwood added: "It is utterly miserable that

once again families and business owners are having to face the anxiety and cost of defending themselves against flood risk.

"As I have gone round and visited constituents in Abingdon and elsewhere, I think we are all grateful for the work the Environment Agency and emergency services have done to respond to the flooding.

"What we need now are long-

term solutions like strategic dredging and clearing of drainage routes and improvements to our drainage system.

"I have been raising these issues in Parliament and will continue to do so."

Anyone in need of sandbags can collect them from the town council offices at Old Abbey House, Abbey Close.

• Further coverage of the floods in Oxford is on page 2



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Misery of floods returns to the city

FLOODING has once again severely affected Oxford and the rest of the county, with residents, homes and roads threatened by rising water levels for the second time this year.

Commuters have again faced chaos on the roads as Abingdon Road was closed, along with Seacourt Park and Ride, on Sunday.

Flood alerts are in force for the River Thames and River Cherwell in the Oxford area, with more rain expected over the next week.

The latest floods have led politicians in Oxford to renew their calls for a flood channel to be built, known as the Western Conveyance Channel, which would divert water away from the city.

Oxford East MP Andrew Smith said: "Oxford faces a dire situation, with all the heartache and worry for those at risk of flooding, and the widespread disruption and economic cost to the city and surrounding area."

"It is important to press the case for the Western Conveyance Channel to relieve flooding pressure on Oxford."

"We need urgently to secure commitment to this major scheme, which is the only way of significantly reducing the flood risk in the city."

"Everyone can see the much greater frequency of major flooding in our area and its damage, and whilst it will take some years to get the Channel in place, the sooner it starts, the better."

Cllr Bob Price, leader of Oxford City Council, said: "The current flooding emergency seems likely to continue until the early part of next week."

"The city council, the fire service and the Environment Agency have worked together with great success so far to keep Botley Road open, and to prevent any homes flooding."

"The council have also installed mobile toilet units in several

By Adam Flinn

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places to help families who cannot use their loos."

Caroline Douglass of the Environment Agency said: "Our sincere sympathy goes out to those who have already suffered the dreadful experience of being flooded."

"We are moving towards December, January and February being the wettest winter in 250 years and looking ahead at the rest of this week, the end is not yet in sight."

"Unfortunately we cannot prevent flooding altogether so I would urge the public to check if they live or work in a flood risk area, and keep up to date with the latest situation on the Environment Agency website."

ACC John Campbell, gold commander for the policing operation around the flooding, said: "Thames Valley Police has dedicated a significant number of officers across our Force area to assist in flood relief efforts."

"There is an enormous amount of work going on across the Thames Valley to try and alleviate the flooding and put measures in place to help those that have been affected."

"I am aware that there have been rumours circulating about criminal activity and suggestions that looting has been taking place."

"I can state that there have been no reports to police that corroborate these rumours and additional officers have been deployed to flood affected areas to deter those who would look to exploit this situation to criminal ends."

"Working together is exactly what is needed at this time as we all pull together to get through this, and I hope this will continue under the flood waters recede and a sense of normality has been restored."



• Communities secretary Eric Pickles visited Oxford on Monday to check on flood defence progress - he is seen here with county council leader Ian Hudspeth (second left) and Oxfordshire fire chief David Etheridge

Calls for EU funding in Oxfordshire

OXFORDSHIRE County Council should apply for EU funding to help rebuild flood defences in the county, according to South East England MEP Catherine Bearder.

While the UK is not applying for funds from Europe, Ms Bearder is urging council leader Ian Hudspeth to apply for EU Regional Development Fund money.

This money is given to areas of EU countries, which in this case would be put towards flood prevention infrastructure in the future.

Ms Bearder said: "Whole swathes of Oxfordshire have been affected by these horrendous floods."

"The government has decided not to apply, so I think it is now Oxfordshire County Council's job to apply for regional funds."

"This funding could prove vital, it could ensure defences are built so people no longer have to worry every time clouds appear overhead."

Cllr Hudspeth said: "Councilors and staff from all parts of the county council have spent large parts of January and February on a day to day basis, helping our residents deal with flooding."

"Of course we would be interested in money from the EU or any other source to help Oxfordshire's cause. Party politics does not come into the equation."

Leader hopes to shame 'bow-wave bandits'

COUNTY council leader Ian Hudspeth is urging people to resort to social media to shame "ignorant bow-wave bandits".

Throughout this year's flooding, a large number of reports have been made of motorists ignoring closure signs.

Cllr Hudspeth says it is "the most ignorant behaviour imaginable" and is asking people to tweet with #bow-wavebandit when they see a

vehicle creating bow-waves for flooded properties.

"Our highways teams do not put up road closed signs because the notion takes their fancy," Cllr Hudspeth said.

"I am sure there are plenty of examples of sheepish motorists who in recent weeks have had to telephone their insurance company to make a claim with nobody to blame but themselves."

"On the other hand I am sure

there are examples of people whose homes have suffered flooding which would not otherwise have happened had it not been for aggressive motorists ploughing through several feet of water and creating bow waves.

"Tweet with #bowwavebandit when you see a vehicle creating an anti-social bow-wave for flooded properties, and let this minority of irresponsible drivers know how you feel."

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Eyesight loss support group 'might close'

A GROUP which offers support to people in Abingdon affected by sight loss could be forced to close unless new volunteers can be found.

The Macular Society's local Abingdon group offers information and advice to people suffering from macular degeneration, which causes a loss of central vision.

Around half of all people in the UK registered as sight impaired have macular disease, and the society has 15,000 members nationwide.

But the Abingdon group is struggling to attract volunteers, who are vital to help with its day-to-day running.

Leonie Sims is affected by visual impairment, and has been involved in volunteering for the group in recent months.

By Adam Flinn

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

She said: "The group helps everyone that comes along. People can discuss any problems they may be facing due to sight loss and perhaps find a solution."

"It also plays an important social role. For some members who live alone, it gives them an opportunity to get out of the house in a way they wouldn't otherwise."

"The members really appreciate the group and all it does to help. I would be very disappointed if the group couldn't carry on meeting."

Tom McNulty, group support and development manager of the Macular Society, will attend today's meeting at the Baptist

Church on Ock Street to discuss the future of the group.

He said: "It would be such a shame if the group has to close."

"Any volunteer that did come forward would only be the main point of contact; they don't need to be an expert on macular degeneration."

"There is a wonderful group of people in Abingdon who all benefit enormously from the chance to meet with others affected by macular degeneration."

"This, coupled with the group activities, helps people to regain control, build their confidence and get on with living life."

Anyone interested about volunteering at the group is asked to contact the Macular Society's helpline on 0300 3030 111, or email help@macularsociety.org.



• Tom McNulty

News Bites

Triathlon

A TRIATHLON is set to return to Abingdon on April 18, organisers have announced.

Set in the grounds of Radley College, the Decathlon Good Fri Tri will feature a 200m pool swim, 11km loop cycle route through the local countryside, and finishes with a 3km cross-country run. Entry fees start from £45. For information go to www.trytri.co.uk.

Exciting time

AN ABINGDON secondary school has converted to an academy, meaning it is now funded by the Department of Education rather than Oxfordshire County Council.

John Mason School, on Wootton Road, officially became an academy on February 1, with the governors forming the new trust board that will run the academy.

Headteacher Di Mashiter said: "This is an exciting time in the school's history."

£2k donation

ABINGDON Lions Club have given £2,000 to youth charity organisation The Abingdon Bridge, as part of their fundraising efforts for the year.

The Abingdon Bridge works with 13 to 25-year-olds on issues including drugs, family support and sexual health from their base on Bridge Street.

It is open weekday afternoons from 2pm to 6pm, except Tuesdays.

Apprentice star Saira gives talk to students

PUPILS at Our Lady's school in Abingdon were visited by television star Saira Khan on Friday, who spoke about her business career and encouraging youngsters to realise their ambitions.

Saira, who was runner-up in the first series of The Apprentice and currently co-presents ITV's Martin Lewis Money Show, gave a speech to the entire senior school.

She also spoke to a number of Upper Sixth students on a range of topics, from university choices to celebrity culture, while she was at the school.

"This was a great opportunity to help inspire some of the entrepreneurs of the future," said Saira.

"School is the time when people start building their aspirations for life, and I wanted to show all these pupils that, with hard work and determination, they can achieve everything they set out to."

Student Abigail McLaven said:

"I really enjoyed meeting Saira because she has such a different perspective on things."

Our Lady's Abingdon deputy head Neil Hathaway added: "We were delighted to welcome Saira to the school."

"Anyone familiar with her TV appearances will know how enthusiastic and inspiring she is, and I'm sure her talk will have a lasting impact on our pupils."



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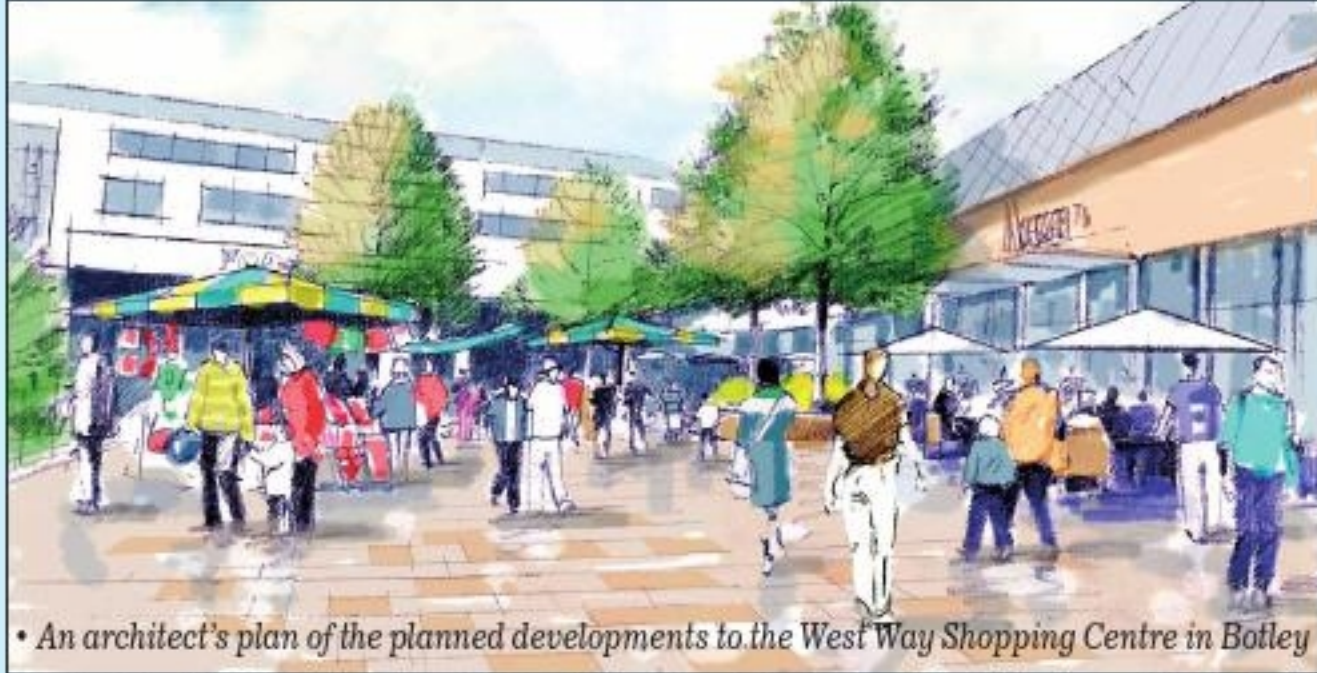
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Cherwell set to benefit from town centre fund

Tree-mendous! Botley to gain new foliage



• An architect's plan of the planned developments to the West Way Shopping Centre in Botley

WEST Way Shopping Centre developers Doric Properties are set to plant almost 200 trees, as part of its plans to revitalise Botley District Centre.

The plans, which form part of the regeneration of the shopping centre, will see 12 existing trees retained and 59 replaced, increasing the number of trees from 71 to 204.

Plans for the centre also include 2,000m² of roof gardens,

which will provide a habitat for butterflies, moths and bees.

Simon Hillcox, joint owner of Doric Properties, said: "Our plans are going to transform the shopping centre to create a really attractive place where people will meet with their friends and neighbours."

"We want people to be able to come and enjoy a meal, or a coffee, or to take part in community events in the new piazza."

Landscape architect Lizzie Palmer said: "We plan to plant almost 200 trees as part of the proposals, including some six or seven metre tall lime and birch trees along West Way and Westminster Way."

"We've also planned ornamental crab apple trees for the piazza area, new trees for the garden areas of the new community hall, and a band of trees for the boundaries areas, including oak trees."

CHERWELL District Council is set to invest tens of thousands of pounds into Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington, to help boost trade in the areas.

Councillors agreed to introduce a number of initiatives that they hope will increase footfall, which includes advertising, regeneration and improved signage.

It will be funded by the £100,000 Town Centre Innovation Fund, which was awarded to the council in 2012 by government following Mary Portas' review into boosting High Street trade.

Cllr Norman Bolster, lead member for economy and estates, said: "In December 2012 we used part of these funds to offset the cost of free parking in Banbury and Bicester."

"While this was hugely successful, the benefits were only temporary."

"As we cannot afford to offer free parking all year round, we needed to consider other ways to use this one-off funding to provide long-term benefits."

"By allocating separate funds

By Adam Flinn

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

to Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington, we can implement a series of long-standing initiatives and projects, which will promote the towns' individual strengths and attractions."

Banbury will receive £50,000 of the total funding and Bicester will get £30,000, although half of each has already been used for the car parking. The remaining £20,000 will go to Kidlington.

Around £10,000 will be spent in Banbury to enhance signs, with £15,000 being used to fund the Town Centre Coordination Project.

Bicester's remaining £15,000 will be divided into 30 grants to independent traders to cover 75 per cent of the costs associated with a year-long radio advertising campaign.

Kidlington's money will be allocated to improving the piazza by constructing a partial screening for the toilet block, to enhance the facility's appearance whilst adding privacy.

It will also be used to help fund 'Welcome to Kidlington' information boards to assist visitors.



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News Bites

Poetry talk

THE daughter of First World War poet Edmund Blunden will speak at Oxford University in April.

Margi Blunden will be remembering her father and his work at the WW1 Poetry Spring School run by Oxford University's English Faculty on April 3-5.

Stolen fuel

FUEL has been stolen from the tanks of three vehicles in Blackthorn, near Bicester, between February 1 and 3.

Police are now appealing for witnesses who may have seen a man acting suspiciously on February 2 at around 1.30pm at Blackthorn Station, who was of large build and wearing a blue jacket. Call 101.

Youth awards

NOMINATIONS for the Oxfordshire Youth Awards 2014 will on Monday, with seven categories available for people aged 11 to 19.

Award categories include Arts Superstar, Sports Achievement, Community Champion, Pride of Oxfordshire, Inspirational Entrepreneur, Young Einstein of the Year, and Youth Project of the Year.

The winners will be announced at Oxford's New Theatre on March 17.



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Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Oxfordshire from their local depots and Josh is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal

satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much

a little bit of effort is appreciated." So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Josh a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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Arts festival raises rights awareness

A FESTIVAL dedicated to raising awareness of human rights returns for a 12th year this month.

This year the programme of events is entitled the Oxford Human Rights Arts Festival, kicking off on February 24 for four days.

As well as film screenings, the festival will host live music, theatre, poetry and a range of guest speakers.

The festival is organised by Oxford Brookes students on the Development and Emergency Practice (DEP) master's degree course.

Martin Dolan, a current DEP student involved in organising the festival, said: "The Oxford Human Rights Arts Festival gives us the opportunity to highlight these issues to a wider audience, in a moving and entertaining way."

"We have such a diverse range of events, from films to poetry and theatre, so this year is sure to be the best festival yet."

Events will take place in venues across the city, including the Old Fire Station and Ultimate Picture Palace, and all are open to the public.

Tickets for events are now available at www.oxfordhumanrightsfestival.org

Museum back in action after 14 month closure

THE Oxford University Museum of Natural History will reopen this weekend, after being closed for the last 14 months while repairs were carried out.

Around £2million was spent on restoring the leaking roof of the building, with more than 8,500 glass tiles needing to be removed, cleaned and resealed.

Staff took advantage of the closure to carry out conservation work on whale skeletons, which were treated for the first time in a century.

A programme of events is planned for Saturday to celebrate the reopening, featuring live bands and a speech from museum director Paul Smith.

Mr Smith said: "This has been a long, dark year with the museum closed to visitors."

"Although the closure has been a great opportunity to experiment with different ways of taking our specimens to the public, it will be very nice to see the doors open again on Saturday."

"It will be great to have the sound of visitors filling the space once more, without them having to move around buckets to collect rainwater!"

The museum was established in 1850 in various facilities

By Adam Flinn

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

around the city, until Sir Henry Acland initiated construction of the current building between 1855 and 1860.

Before its recent closure the museum attracted around 300,000 visitors a year, and is divided into sections relating to geology, mineralogy, zoology and entomology.

While it was closed, 12 specimens, including a dodo and a dinosaur, were installed at venues around the city to form an interactive treasure trail, the winners of which will be announced on Saturday.

Saturday's programme sees the museum's doors open at 7am, with bug handling, talks and music taking place throughout the day.

A number of exhibitions have been planned for the upcoming months, such as a lecture from the Oxford Geology Group, images of butterflies and moths, and an event about the tensions and overlaps between science and the arts.

For more information, go to www.oum.ox.ac.uk.

Raising the flag for the Commonwealth



OXFORDSHIRE County Council was host to dignitaries from the district councils on Monday, as they were presented with a flag in preparation for Commonwealth Day next month.

Lord-lieutenant of Oxfordshire Tim Stevenson delivered the flags, which will be used by the districts for flag-raising ceremonies on March 10.

This is the first time in history that the ceremonies will be held across Oxfordshire and

the country, in celebration of the Commonwealth Games being held in Glasgow later this year.

Mr Stevenson said: "This is a great opportunity to promote understanding on global issues and celebrate the work carried out internationally by Commonwealth organisations."

"We are proud to be supporting this event and look forward to distributing the flags to dignitaries representing the dis-

trict councils.

"We believe that global bonds begin locally, and what better way to emphasise than by inviting local celebration of this special association."

Bruno Peek, originator of Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth, said: "This will be the largest, single raising of the Commonwealth flag in history."

"The success of this year's event bodes well for 2015 and the future."

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Axel MacDonald

Mayor of Didcot



Development plans for Didcot

AS we enter February the rain and winds stay with us.

The incessant assault by our weather has impacted on our roads with pot holes growing like inverse mole hills and diversions due to flooding.

Luckily I see the highways team out and about trying to keep abreast of road repairs and improving drainage to alleviate flooded roads – my gratitude to these teams for this unending task.

However, the news in Didcot is not just about the weather. Changes are afoot with the proposed Didcot 'Gateway' going to planning at District this month, the ever ending wait for the second phase of the Orchard Centre expansion, new sports facility to the north east of the town and proposed purchase of land for recreational use off the Wallingford Road.

Having talked to local residents, there is approval for the development of the 'Gateway' site opposite the railway station but providing the development takes account of residents needs.

The planned replacement of 400 parking spaces at present with a 300 capacity multi-storey car park is one of the points raised. I'll leave any further comment to those on planning committees.

There is some excitement in the prospect of purchasing land which the cricket club and other sports clubs might make as their new home. Didcot residents will be asked what their view is and I hope that residents respond to provide the council with a representative response of the town.

The town's Civic Ball is on February 28, open to all and I look forward to welcoming you to this annual event.

Money raised goes to my selected charities, the Felix Fund and Balsam Family Project, and details are available of the town council's web site.

We also have the Didcot annual awards evening on March 26 and I would urge townsfolk to put forward candidates who have worked hard for the town and their efforts to be formally recognised.

Do you have an Oxford story?

Contact James jamesb@taylornewspapers.co.uk or on 01235 516931

Bike study to help all ages

By Adam Flinn

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

OXFORD Brookes University is conducting a study on the impact of electric bikes, known as E-bikes, on the mobility and wellbeing of older people.

The study is supported by bike manufacturer Raleigh UK, and comes as there is growing awareness that assisted cycling can lead to health benefits for thousands of inactive people.

One of the issues that the industry faces is reaching out to people of all ages, so the cycle BOOM study plans to investigate the experiences over 50s have using E-bikes.

While the study hopes to provide information on how E-bike technology can be improved, it also aims to show how towns, cities and the countryside could be developed to encourage older people to cycle.

Tim Jones, principal investigator at Oxford Brookes, said: "It's great to be working with an industry partner with such a proud heritage of British bicycle manufacture."

"With this study we hope to make a really important contribution in



ensuring that future bicycle technology, as well as our towns and cities, are designed to support cycling in older age."

Richard Dobney, Raleigh's electric bike product manager, added: "We're very excited to be working with Oxford Brookes and its partners on the cycle BOOM project."

"Seeing how our technology can be progressed, implemented and tailored to the non-cyclist is absolutely key to the future of electric bikes in the UK."

"Ultimately, we believe electric bikes are inclusive, and will con-

tribute hugely to getting more people on two wheels in the coming years."

Raleigh UK is hoping to implement the findings in future product and marketing developments and will be working as a partner throughout the lifespan of the study, expected to conclude in September 2016.

Researchers are currently looking for participants aged 50 and above who live in Oxford to take part in the study, which would occur before the end of March.

Anyone interested in finding out more can visit www.cycleboom.org

News Bites

Man tasered

A 51-YEAR-OLD man was tasered by police in Bicester on Monday evening, and arrested on suspicion of making death threats.

It took place at around 10pm at a property in Duxford Close. The man was uninjured.

Supt Colin Paine, LPA commander for West Oxfordshire and Cherwell, said: "I would like to reassure the local community that Taser use is a staged process."

"On many occasions the use of the laser sight, or red dot, is enough to encourage people to comply. It is only considered for use in cases where it is necessary."

Drugs raid

POLICE have arrested a 19-year-old man in Bicester, as part of a successful drugs warrant carried out on Monday afternoon.

The raid was part of Operation Jasminum, which saw officers from the Bicester neighbourhood policing team and the Tactical Support Department search a flat in Westholm Court.

The man pleaded guilty to one count of possession with intent to supply heroin and crack cocaine at Oxford Magistrates' Court on Tuesday, and will be sentenced on March 4.

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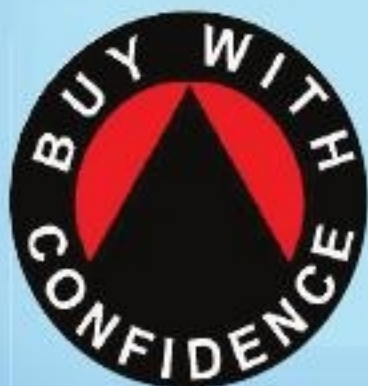
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Autism organisation up for national award

After 40 years, Vivienne's still going strong!



(Left to right) Mark Wilson, general manager, Vivienne Edwards and Ben Reid, chief executive

A WOMAN from Oxford has received a special award in recognition of a 40 year commitment to the local community.

Vivienne Edwards, 62, has been an employee at The Midcounties Co-operative Food since 1974 and has been presented with a Long Service Award in recognition of her dedication.

Ms Edwards currently works as a duty manager at the Wood-

farm store on Atkyns Road.

The 62-year-old started as a customer service assistant before becoming a deputy manager.

She semi-retired last year, taking up her current role.

"Working at The Midcounties Co-operative in Woodfarm is a pleasure and I am proud to be part of a Society that is ethical and community focused," she said.

"I work with an inspiring team and over the years have enjoyed supporting and forming great relationships with the local community."

Gabi Harris, store manager at the Woodfarm shop, added: "Vivienne is an exceptional colleague and we would like to congratulate her on her achievement of reaching this milestone and thank her for all her hard work over the last 40 years."

AN OXFORDSHIRE-based organisation has received national recognition for its innovative work in helping people with autism.

Autism Oxford has been nominated in the Outstanding Adult Services category of this year's National Autistic Society's (NAS) Autism Professionals Awards.

The Chinnor-based organisation provides training sessions led by people with autism to professionals to help them understand the condition.

During last year, Autism Oxford trained 825 health, mental health and social care staff as well as 860 people in the criminal justice system, including 516 police officers.

The organisation was nominated for the award by the parents of people with autism.

Kathy Erangey, who founded Autism Oxford in 2007, said: "We are honoured and thrilled to have been shortlisted in the Autism Professionals Awards."

"We believe our team is unique and helping thousands of autism families and professionals."

Peter Bowell, whose adult son has autism, added: "During his dark periods, the only light that shone for our son was the Autism

By Jack Johnson

jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Oxford Team who were inspirational, giving hope where none had previously existed.

"Hearing their personal experiences was enlightening, showing that despite huge difficulties, they have progressed marvelously to help others."

Richard Maguire, an Autistic trainer for the organisation, said: "When you have spent most of your life feeling not good enough, a NAS award would be amazing."

The Autism & Ageing Projects Team and Prospect House have also been nominated.

Carol Povey, director of the Centre for Autism at the NAS, said: "These awards recognise individuals and organisations, like Autism Oxford, who go the extra mile to improve the lives of people affected by autism across the UK."

"The calibre of this year's entries has been outstanding and Autism Oxford has done remarkably well to be shortlisted."

The winner will be revealed at an awards dinner held on March 4 at The Royal Hall in Harrogate.

University honours six of the best

SIX renowned names from the worlds of science, the arts and religion are set to receive honorary degrees from Oxford University.

Doctorates of Divinity, Letters, Science and Music will be awarded at Encaenia, the university's annual ceremony, on June 25.

The Most Reverend Dr Katherine Jefferts Schori, who is Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America and 16 other nations, will receive an honorary doctorate of Divinity.

Sculptor Sir Anish Kapoor, who was behind the 'Orbit' for the London 2012 Olympic Games, and Robert Silvers, editor of the New York Review of Books, will accept a degree of Doctor of Letters.

Prof Wallace Broecker, a scientist at Columbia's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, and Prof Jean-Marie Lehn, a Nobel Prize for Chemistry winner, will receive an honorary doctorate of Science.

British composer Sir Harrison Birtwistle is set to be handed an honorary degree of doctor of Music.

All of the degrees are subject to approval, to be made by the university's Congregation.

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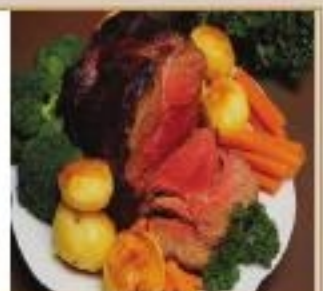
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News Bites

Get studying!

PARENTS of year 11 students preparing for GCSE exams can book their child on to a special revision course at Oxford University.

Elevate Education are holding an exam preparation seminar at the university on April 5.

You can book a place by calling 01865 366219 or by visiting www.elevateeducation.com.

Care survey

MEMBERS of the public are being encouraged to complete a survey to help improve care in schools for children with medical conditions.

The Government has launched the consultation following the publication of draft guidance into what schools will be expected to do from September to support children with conditions such as Diabetes.

Visit www.education.gov.uk to complete the survey.

Faster travel

NETWORK Rail has announced plans to shorten the journey time from Oxford to Heathrow.

A new rail line, connecting the city with the airport, would see commuters' travelling time cut from 1hr 34mins to 58mins in 2021.

Students' free trip to Asia for charity

By Jack Johnson

jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

STUDENTS from Oxford University have proved it is easier than you think to travel abroad without using any money.

As part of the university's Raise And Give (RAG) week, 200 students embarked on Jailbreak 2014.

Without using any of their own money, they were competing to be the team furthest from Oxford after 36 hours, travelling by any means they could think of.

And the winning team got as far as Tokyo, all thanks to a chance meeting with Sir Richard Branson.

Robert Harris, Charlie Parkes and Caitlin Place, who made up the 'No Rest Til Budapest' team, seized the opportunity and asked Sir Richard for his help.

The trio then boarded a plane, leaving England far behind.

"6,000 miles in 18 hours, without having spent a penny? Not too bad!" said Robert.

Despite the comfortable ride, there was still the element of adventure.



• (From left to right) Caitlin Place, Robert Harris and Charlie Parkes arrive in Tokyo (Picture courtesy of Charlie Parkes)

Robert added: "We certainly still got a good taste for the adventure of Jailbreak, not least when the Japanese immigration officer became extremely suspicious at our claims that we had nowhere to stay and that we were 'running away from England!'"

Many teams covered over 1,000 miles within the time frame, travelling by car, coach, trucks and school buses to make their

way to Stockholm, Warsaw and Majorca, to name a few.

Andrew Baxter, who helped organise the event, said: "It was fantastic just to be involved in, and it was incredible to slowly watch the map of students spreading out over the continent."

"The variety of destinations people reached just by hitchhiking was astonishing, and

testament to the participants' ingenuity and the helpfulness of the people they met."

As the Guardian went to print, Jailbreak had raised over £40,000 for RAG's four charities.

The students raised money for the Oxford Food Bank, Education Partnerships Africa, Students Supporting Street Kids and Giving What We Can.

Elderly man targeted in roof racket

POLICE are urging people to be extra vigilant after an elderly person in Cumnor Hill became the victim of a distraction burglary.

Between 12pm and 12.30pm on February 4, two men knocked on the victim's door claiming they had carried out roofing work on the property.

The men obtained money from the man before stealing further cash from inside the house.

One suspect is described as late 20s or early 30s, of medium build wearing a blue cap.

The other man is believed to be in his 40s, with dark hair and wearing jeans.

The men left the house in a white car.

If you have seen any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the Cumnor Hill area or have any information relating to the incident, call 101.

You can also call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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News Bites

Shop robbed

A 35-YEAR-OLD man from Witney has been arrested and is in custody after a newsagents in Carterton was robbed at gunpoint on Saturday.

It took place at around 10pm, when a man walked into the McColls newsagents in Burford Road and threatened a member of staff with a handgun.

The offender stole an unspecified quantity of cash, before fleeing towards Upavon Way.

Investigating officer Det Sgt Chris Whitwell said: "I would like to reassure the community that incidents such as these are extremely rare."

TV burglary

A MAN who burgled an Oxford electronics store, and was caught carrying a stolen television on the handlebars of his bicycle, has been given an eight-week suspended sentence by Oxford magistrates.

Eamonn Anderson, 54, of Salter Close in Oxford, was stopped by officers after he had broken into Richer Sounds on Botley Road on November 28 last year.

He was convicted on January 31, and received the sentence, suspended for a year, after pleading guilty to the charge.

Volunteer Flo's 25 years of service

By Adam Flinn

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

RESIDENTS and staff at a Burcot care home staged a party for long-serving volunteer Florence Broughton last Thursday, who recently celebrated 25 years at the site.

Flo, 88, lives locally to Leonard Cheshire Disability's John Masfield House, and started as a volunteer in 1988 and now works six days a week.

Her duties have progressed from feeding the home's cat and making tea to bed making, budding and supporting residents with their games, hobbies and interests.

She has also had two spells as secretary to the chairman of the resident's committee.

"The party was such a surprise, it was lovely," said Flo. "They put on a little party for me, and I was quite pleased, quite overcome!"

"I just went in a small way at first, because I was nervous and didn't know how to treat disabled people, but then more and more I got my confidence back."

"I love talking to them, play-

• Michael Davis, Florence Broughton and fellow volunteer Jean Homewood

ing games like Scrabble, singing silly songs with them, and it just grew.

"People do comment about how good I am, and my answer is always the same: 'it's what they've done for me', and I really mean that. They kept me going."

"The staff have changed but they've always made me feel

welcome. I don't know what it is but I just love going to be with them."

The party was kept secret from Flo, while she was busy playing games with residents in the activities room.

As she arrived in the dining hall, residents, staff and volunteers greeted her with a round of applause, and she was

presented with a set of crystal glasses, a certificate and a basket of flowers.

Michael Davis, acting service manager at the home, added: "What Flo has given to the service is hard to put into words."

"She has done so much, but our gratitude and thanks to this remarkable lady goes without saying."



Search of Dry Sandford yard leads to arrest

A MAN has been arrested after police and intelligence officers searched a yard in Dry Sandford, near Abingdon, on January 29.

Officers arrested a 25-year-old from Dry Sandford on suspicion of producing a controlled drug, theft and using electricity without authority as a result of the search.

Police and Plant and Agriculture National Intelligence Unit officers discovered a large breeze block building containing a cannabis factory.

Forty full grown suspected cannabis plants, along with cultivation equipment, were found in the building.

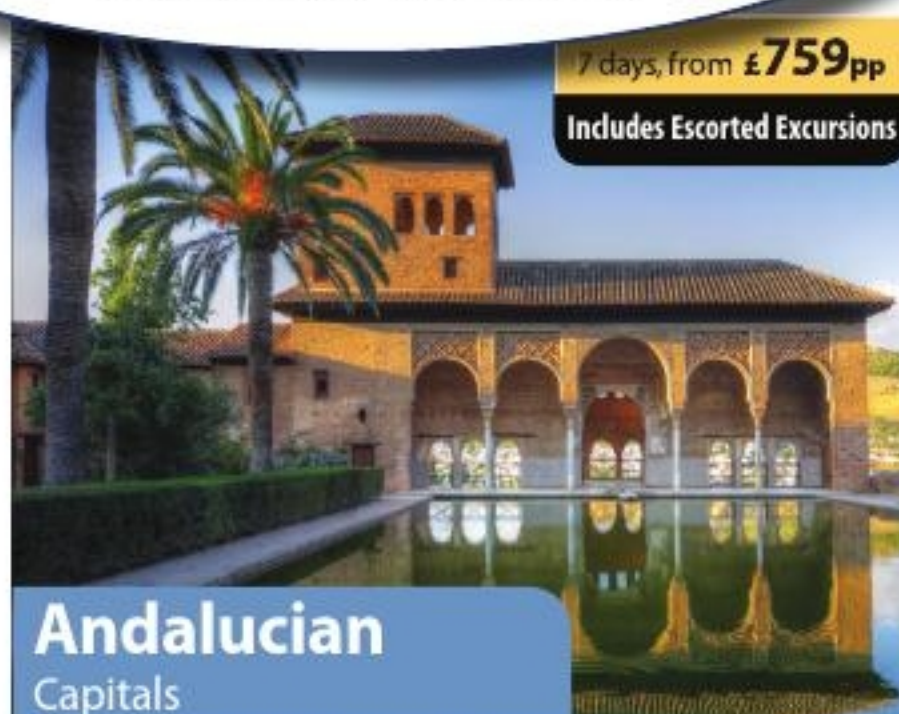
At the rear of the yard, several large shipping containers, holding numerous power tools, a quad bike, compressors, lathes and cutting equipment, which are suspected to be stolen, were also found.

A tractor, believed to have been stolen on October 8 from Chesham, Buckinghamshire, was also recovered from the site.

Officers also found three Ifor Williams trailers, believed to have been stolen from the Metropolitan area back in 1999, and an Atlas Copco Compressor, believed to have been stolen from Sussex in 2012.

The man has been released on bail until March 11.

Oxfordshire Guardian



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[†] We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 27 December 2013 and is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 25 September 2014.



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Departing Wednesday 14 May 2014
From Gatwick airport

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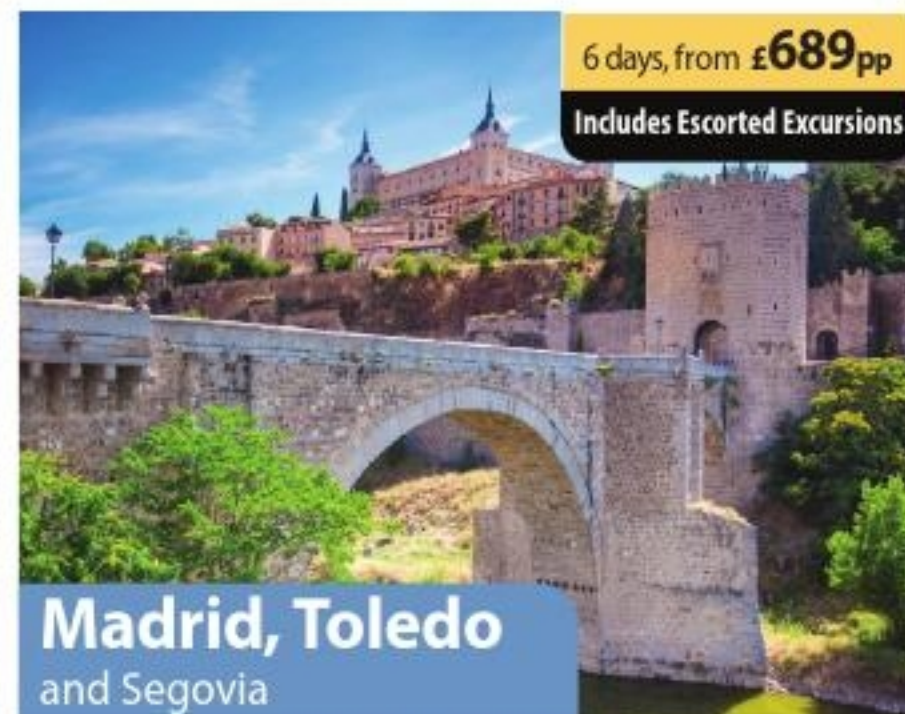
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- Includes 3 full day excursions; to Barcelona including guided walking tour of the old town, Montserrat and Figueres with admission to the Dalí Museum



^{††} We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 27 December 2013.

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- Included excursions to Toledo and Segovia
- Free time in Madrid

^{†††} We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 27 December 2013.

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Green light for Castle Quay expansion plan

Award-winning festival is right on track

CHINNOR and Princes Risborough Railway were one of the winners at the Railway Accolades awards, for their staging of their multi-anniversary traction event in October last year.

The railway received the Morton's Media Rail Express magazine Modern Traction Award, presented during a ceremony at Bath Guildhall on Saturday.

It was given to the railway in recognition of their collaboration with Chiltern Railways, Network Rail and Knorr-Bremse, who were honoured at the awards for hosting 'an innovative modern traction event'.

Railway chairman Roger J Fagg said: "The event was held over three weekends in October and special trains linked Aylesbury, Princes Risborough and Chinnor, the first for nearly 60 years."

"It was a splendid example of many organisations working closely together."

"Hundreds of visitors and

enthusiasts enjoyed a very unique and exceptional experience and they travelled from all over the UK to join the trains."

Jenny McGee, enterprise director at Visit England, said: "The consensus is that these charters linking Ayles-

bury and Chinnor have built a firm foundation for future cross-platform operations at Princes Risborough."

"It's a great example of how our heritage railway lines bring economic and tourism benefits to the local areas where they operate."



• Project manager Claire Conway-Crapp, who organised the event for Chinnor and Princes Risborough Railway

BANBURY'S Castle Quay shopping centre is set to gain a cinema, supermarket and restaurants, after Cherwell District Council gave the proposals its support.

The council's planning committee approved the expansion to Castle Quay last Thursday, following an application made by centre owners Scottish Widows.

As well as the new facilities, the development, known as CQ2, will also see a glazed canopy installed over the Oxford Canal to link the two sites.

Cllr Michael Gibbard, lead member for planning, said: "This development will inject investment, employment and retail opportunities into Banbury and help to create and sustain a thriving town centre."

"The people of Banbury have been crying out for a new multiplex cinema for many years, and since the closure of Somerfield in 2007, the town centre has been without a full-size supermarket."

"This development will address both of these needs, while the glazed canopy will create a focal point around the canal, helping to bring the new and existing developments together in style."

The supermarket will be constructed on the site of the former

By Adam Flinn

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Spiceball Leisure Centre, the cinema to the north of the canal, and a 92-bedroom hotel to the south.

Restaurant and café units will also be built north of the canal, with additional car parking created and bridges installed over the canal and the River Cherwell.

As part of the scheme, Castle Quay's northern car park will be demolished to make room for the development.

General Foods Sports and Social Club would also need to be demolished, but the club has objected with a 58-page petition against it.

Despite getting planning permission, Scottish Widows need approval from the club owners before the building can be demolished.

Do you have an Oxford story?

Contact James

jamesb@taylornewspapers.co.uk

or on 01235 516931

News Bites

Election win

LAST Thursday's election for Woodstock Town Council was won by independent candidate Louisa Maybury, who polled almost 86 per cent of the vote with a total of 416.

Her only opponent was fellow independent candidate Christopher Harris, who received 68 votes. Turnout for the election was 17.12 per cent.

Only one candidate stood for a position on Charlbury Town Council, with Ron Prew being elected as a councillor on the same day.

New homes

PLANS to build up to 40 homes on the outskirts of Banbury have been approved by district councillors.

The planning committee on Cherwell District Council have accepted the plans for land north of Crouch Hill Farm, adjoining Broughton Road.

Although the location is not included as a preferred site for development in Cherwell's submitted local plan, a shortfall in the council's five year land supply means alternative sites have to be considered.

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Brendan's license to thrill

One last time

THE heart-warming show *Dreams of Philomina* comes to the Pegasus Theatre on Saturday, from production company Lunabug.

It follows the story of Philomina, who is given the chance to see her beloved husband Albert one last time, in a journey from the seaside home to a wondrous land.

The show starts at 3pm, and tickets are £8. Go to www.pegasustheatre.org.uk or call 01865 812150 for more details.

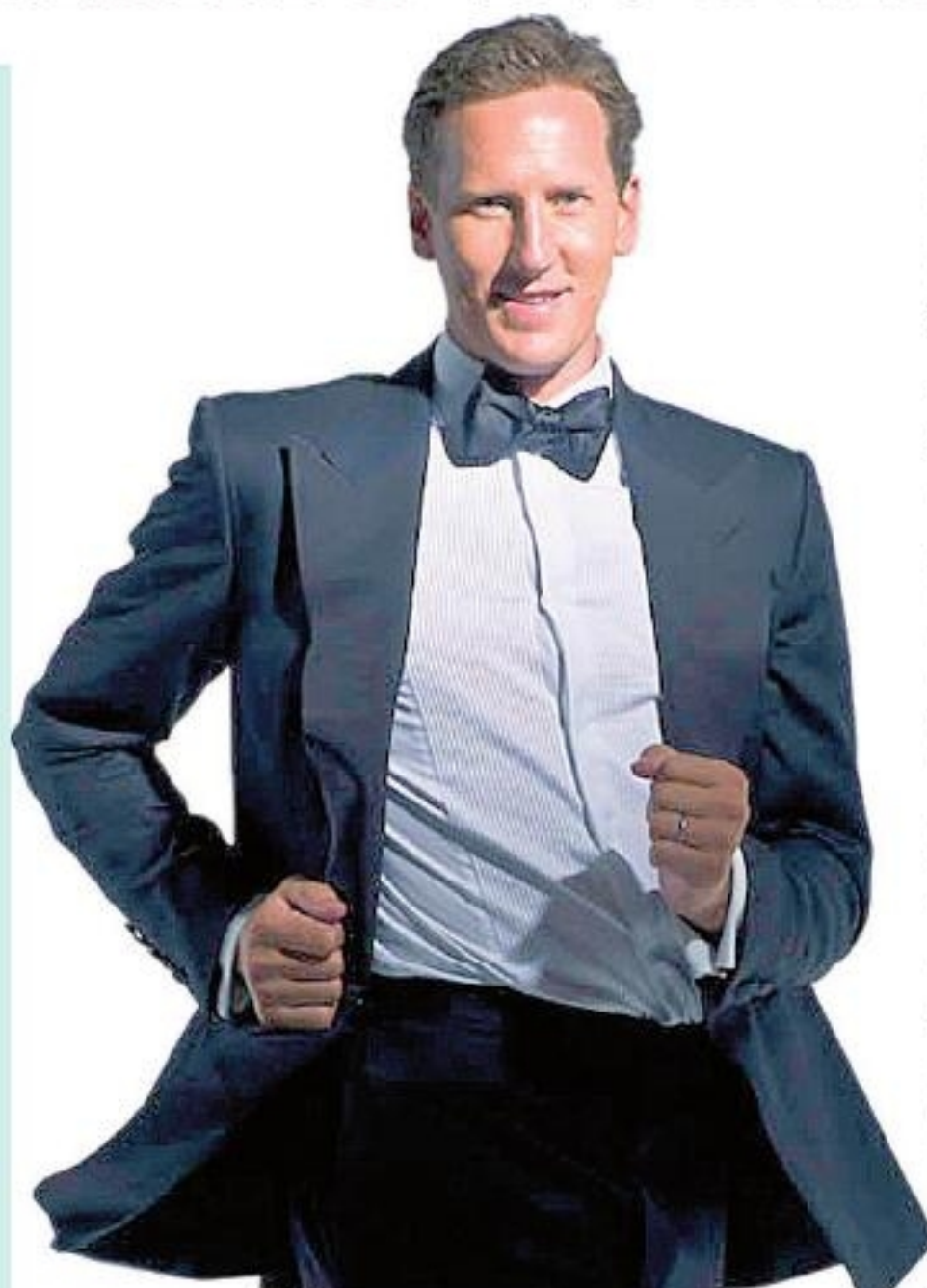
Brahms show

MUSIC from the library of Brahms is being performed in Oxford on Sunday evening, as part of The Bartholomew Concert.

Singers from around the UK and The Netherlands make up the concert, who regularly perform in the city since being founded in 2001.

It takes place at St John the Evangelist Church from 7.30pm.

For more information, call 01865 613502 or go to www.sje-oxford.org.



• Brendan Cole comes to Oxford tomorrow evening

STRICTLY Come Dancing star Brendan Cole brings his new show 'License To Thrill' to Oxford's New Theatre tomorrow, following on from his debut theatre tour last year.

Brendan and his cast of 14 musicians and six internationally-known dancers enact a wide range of different dances during the two-hour show.

Waltzes and Foxtrots are performed alongside fast-paced Quicksteps, Tangos and American Smooths, as well as Latin dances that promise to keep audiences entertained throughout the evening.

"My dance cast is truly international, with a collective CV from competition, theatre, stage and television," said Brendan.

"I'm very lucky to have a cast that have been in *Dancing With The Stars* around the world as well as stars from the Broadway hit *Burn the Floor* and, of course, *Strictly Come Dancing*."

Brendan is joined by *Strictly* co-star Aliona Vilani for Saturday's performance, after original leading lady Fauve Hautot was forced to pull out because

By Adam Flinn

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

of injury.

Aliona said: "With this wealth of talent we will ensure audiences have the best seat in the house all night, and I can't wait to see the show back out in theatres again."

The band is led by musical director Barry Robinson, and it features vocalists Ian Mackenzie and Julie Maguire, as well as a number of other British musicians.

On stage throughout the show the band will be performing songs spanning several decades, from Nat King Cole to Gladys Knight to Michael Bublé.

"There is a small nod to James Bond with the music," Barry said about the music in the show.

"One of the big songs is Gladys Knight's 'License to Kill', hence the 'License to Thrill' title, and there is a dance-off between the males in 'Live and Let Die'."

The show starts at 7.30pm. For further details, go to www.newtheatreoxford.org.uk or phone 0844 871 3020.

Semi-Monde at Playhouse



• *Semi-Monde* (Picture by Duncan Cornish)

STUDENTS from the University of Oxford are staging a production of Noel Coward's *Semi-Monde*, taking place at the Oxford Playhouse from Wednesday.

Semi-Monde takes the audience through the corridors of the Parisian Ritz at the beginning of the Roaring Twenties, with the jazz age at its height.

It has never before been performed in Oxford, and Coward himself described the comedy as "jagged with sophisticated".

Tickets start from £17, with six performances available until February 22. For more details, go to www.oxford-playhouse.com or call 01865 305305.

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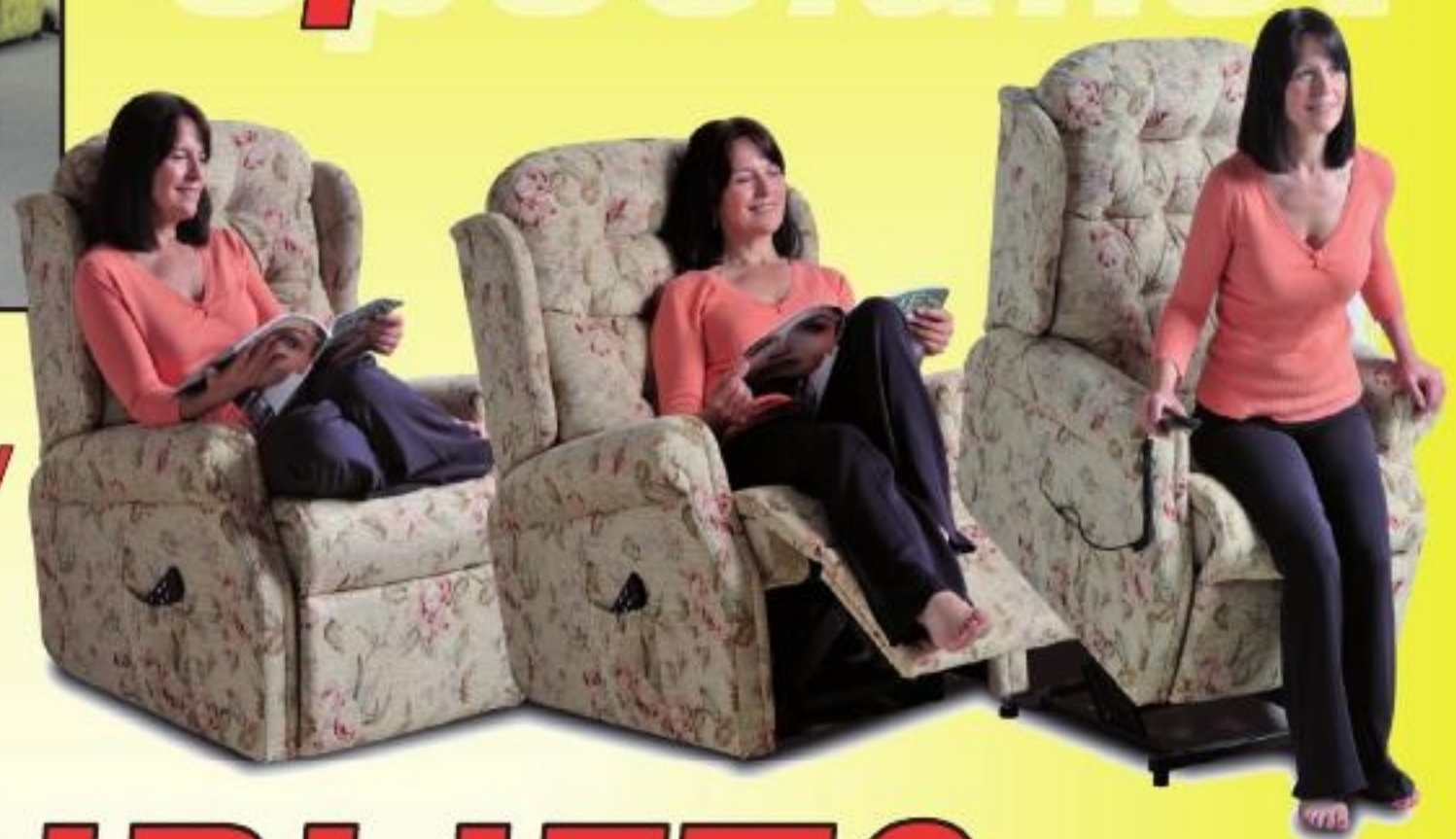
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The packages are for either 50 or 100 guests, an additional 10 guests can be added for a special price of £50 per person. Further guests can be added for a higher price by quotation at time of booking.



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- Roast loin of pork, with crackling and apple sauce, roast potatoes and a selection of Vegetables.

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- Banoffee pie with caramel sauce
- Pear and ginger cheesecake, pear coulis

Vegetarian options available on request.

Cara's got lots of heart

Pilot piano duo set for 02

PIANO-DRIVEN duo Twenty One Pilots are at Oxford's O2 Academy on Tuesday, as they bring their new set to the stage.

Made up of Tyler Joseph and Josh Dun, the pair are no strangers to the road, and are now touring following the release of their latest album 'Vessel'.

Doors open at 7pm, and more information can be found by calling 0844 477 2000 or on the website: www.o2academyoxford.co.uk.

Celebrating Julie's legacy

JULIE Madly Deeply comes to the Wallingford Corn Exchange on Saturday, celebrating the music and career of iconic actress Dame Julie Andrews.

The show is performed by West End actress Sarah-Louise Young, and begins at 7.45pm. For more details, go to www.cornexchange.org.uk or call 01491 825000.

IRISH-BORN folk singer songwriter Cara Dillon is in Didcot on Saturday, as she prepares for the release of her upcoming album 'A Thousand Hearts'.

Cara is married to fellow musician Sam Lakeman, who will also be appearing in Saturday's show, after they met in the folk super group 'Equation'.

The combination of Cara's vocals and Sam's piano skills was a winning formula, and as well as their original 'Equation' material they have written many other songs.

"In the last couple of years with the smaller gigs, myself and Sam just went out together and didn't bring the rest of the band because we couldn't fit them on stage!" said Cara.

"And they've been going down really well. It's something different for us and a breath of fresh air, and we've really enjoyed doing it."

"This time round, it will be different in that we've got lots of new songs from the new album coming out in the spring, so we're doing lots of new material."

Cara launched her own record

By Adam Flinn

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

label in 2009 for the release of the award-winning album 'Hill of Thieves', following on from her three earlier solo records.

'A Thousand Hearts' will be Cara's fifth solo effort, and she is aiming for an April release date.

She added: "I would say this album is carrying on the same kind of theme from 'Hill of Thieves', because we loved recording it and got such an amazing response."

"We've recorded the album at home, like we have for the others."

"And so for the past few months we've had lots of musicians coming and going, staying and meeting for a drink."

"I'm very excited for the album because a lot of the songs are songs I've grown up with. It's a lovely process."

The show starts at 8pm, and tickets cost £19. For more details, call the box office on 01235 515144 or go to www.cornerstone-arts.org.



• Cara Dillon and husband Sam Lakeman come to the Cornerstone this weekend

Blast off!

CHILDREN'S theatre comes to Banbury's Mill Arts Centre on Tuesday, as Kids Carpet Blast Off goes into outer space on a mission to find a brand new sound for their new album.

The fast adventure takes place in a rock 'n' roll universe, with the stars encountering noisy planets, annoyed nursery rhyme characters, shooting stars and Shakespeare.

Two shows take place on Tuesday at 11am and 2pm. For further information, go to www.themillartscentre.co.uk or call 01295 297002.

Louis tribute

ATTRIBUTE act to the renowned jazz musician Louis Armstrong comes to the Chipping Norton Theatre on Sunday, performed by the award-winning Bateman Brothers Jazz Band.

Hits from the evening will include 'What a Wonderful World', 'Hello Dolly' and 'Cabaret', with the band being joined by singer Maggie Reeday, all-round entertainer Thomas Langham and trumpeter Enrico Tomasso.

It starts at 7.45pm. Go to www.chippingnortontheatre.co.uk for more details.

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Comrades Club, Newbury Street, Wantage
BOB DWYER'S BIX AND PIECES
An evening of traditional jazz played by a fine London band of long standing. Tickets on the door £10.
01993 811678 (tickets) 01235 765648 (music)

21 February, 8pm
Cornerstone, Didcot
KRIS DREVER AND EAMONN COYNE 'STORY-MAP' TOUR
Tickets £14.50/£13 conc.
01235 515144
www.cornerstone-arts.org

21 February, 7pm - 11pm
The Cellar
HARLEIGHBLU LIVE AT THE CELLAR
Fast rising singer Harleighblu kicks off the year with a run of UK dates in February & March showcasing a new live band set-up, with fresh electronic elements and visuals. This tour builds on an incredible 2013 which saw Nottingham native Harleighblu acknowledged as one of the most promising young stars of UK music for her arresting, charismatic voice and edgy brand of hip hop-infused soul.

21 February, 7:30pm - 9:30pm
The North Wall, Oxford
LA TRAVIATA
Verdi's classical tale of love and sacrifice has been thrilling audiences for generations. This is the story of Violetta and the three men who rule her life. Set in Atlantic City in 1928 this new production reveals the hypocrisy and heartache behind the glittering façade of the prohibition era's speakeasies and bootlegging.
www.thenorthwall.com/01865319450

22 February, 8:20pm - 11pm
The Wheatheaf High St Oxford
GAPPY TOOTH INDUSTRIES
20.45 Beard Of Destiny
21.30 The Lucky Club
22.15 The Heavy Dexters
£4.50 on the door, cheaper at www.wegotickets.com/event/255751

22 - 23 February, 10am - 5pm
Waterperry Gardens, Nr Wheatley
SNOWDROP WEEKEND

22 - 23 February, 7:30am - 9:30am
The Abbey, Sutton Courtenay near Oxford
ALAN HEEKS: INNER PEACE IN A CHANGING WORLD
A unique weekend retreat on February 22-23 will show how the great spiritual teachers can help us find happiness and resilience amid the uncertainties of modern life.
Inner Peace in a Changing World will explore teachings of Jesus, Buddha and Muhammad that show us how to be centered, and connect with humanity's role as stewards of the Earth. It also draws on modern approaches, such as Joanna Macy's Deep Ecology.
01235 847401

22 February, 8pm
The Forge
KRIS DREVER AND EAMONN COYNE
Kris Drever's voice and guitar forms part of the backbone of today's contemporary roots scene. Widely admired as a solo artist, collaborator, and member of folk supergroup Lau, he is a phenomenal and prolific artist.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk



Friday 21 February 8pm
Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot
KRIS DREVER AND EAMONN COYNE 'STORYMAP' TOUR
Tickets £14.50/£13 conc.
Tel 01235 515144 www.cornerstone-arts.org

22 February, 3pm and 7.45pm
The Anvil
ANTON DU BEKE BALLROOM TO BROADWAY
Memorable dances alongside sensational new choreography
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

25 February - 26 February, 8pm - 9pm
The North Wall, Oxford
BRAND NEW ANCIENTS
Poet and spoken word artist Kate Tempest tells an everyday epic over an exhilarating live score played by tuba, cello, violin, drums and electronics, that finds the gods of today all around us and reveals that our true heroes are much closer than we think.
www.thenorthwall.com/01865319450

25 February - 1 March
Oxford Playhouse
DIAL M FOR MURDER
This hit show stars Christopher Timothy, best known for his roles in popular TV shows All Creatures Great and Small and Doctors. Famously directed on screen by Alfred Hitchcock, this exciting and claustrophobic production is directed by Lucy Bailey, who has worked for many of the country's leading theatre companies, including the National Theatre and Shakespeare's Globe.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

26 February, 8:30pm
The Lamb Inn, Mill Street, Wantage
DAVE MOORWOOD'S RASCALS OF RHYTHM
with special guest - cornet player Andy Woon
No admission charge.

28 February, 8pm - 8pm
Jacqueline du Pré Music Building
MAHAN ESFAHANI (HARPSICHORD)
Spanning four centuries, this evening's programme by Esfahani covers the gamut of the harpsichord repertoire.
www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

28 February, 5pm
Oxford Playhouse
FOUNDER OF THE BIG ISSUE, JOHN BIRD
a personal tale that is both achingly funny and powerfully inspiring. John will be signing copies of his latest books, including The Necessity of Poverty, after the event.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

1 March, 11am - 12pm
The North Wall, Oxford
GRANDPA'S RAILWAY
Featuring a working model railway, live music and two very playful characters, Grandpa's Railway is a journey of discovery that explores the past, illuminates the present and lays new tracks for the future.
Tickets: £7 www.thenorthwall.com/01865319450

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1 March, 9am - 5pm
The Mix on Mill Street, Wantage
GIRLGUIDING TAKEOVER
Find out what Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers do!
Have you considered helping?
Have a go at crafts
Look inside a tent
Share your memories of Guiding
Just come and visit to say hello!

1 March, 7:30pm
St Mary's Church, Streatley on Thames
CHARITY CONCERT FOR GREAT ORMOND STREET HOSPITAL

All pieces are either light classical or traditional music, (instrumental pieces, arias or poems) and all are cheerful and also short. It's a slightly unusual form of concert in that there are between 20 and 30 voluntary performers who have very generously given their time to perform one or two pieces each, as solos, duo or trios. (Tickets £5) stmarysconcerts@hotmail.co.uk

1 March, 5pm
Vue Bicester. Cineworld Didcot. Phoenix Picturehouse Oxford. The Regal Henley-on-Thames. Cineworld Witney.

THE MET: LIVE IN HD BORODIN: PRINCE IGOR
This new production, marking director Dmitri Tcherniakov's Met debut, is a new version constructed by him in collaboration with conductor Gianandrea Noseda and taken from all of Borodin's known music and orchestrations.
<http://Metopera.org/uk>

1 March, 2pm - 4pm
Cumnor Village Hall
JUMBLE SALE
Raising money for the Maizie Rose appeal.

1 - 24 March, 10am - 4pm
The Sewell Centre Gallery, Radley College, Abingdon
OXFORD ART SOCIETY SPRING MEMBERS EXHIBITION

The show is a selected exhibition, showing some of the best Artists, Printmakers and Sculptors in Oxfordshire. The exhibition is an exciting view of contemporary work by Oxfordshire Artists in many styles and mediums and showing the creativity of it's members.

1 March, 11am - 2pm
Fry's Hill Park, Blackbird Leys
THE BIG TREE PLANT

Come along to plant young trees (whips) in Fry's Hill Park, on the mound next to the skate park. Spades, gloves and refreshments will be provided. Wear warm clothes and strong shoes. It will be a fun day out for young and old! Children need to be accompanied by an adult.
www.tcv.org.uk/southeast

1 March, 7pm
Wantage Parish Church
SOUTH WALES MALE VOICE CHOIR
www.wantagebetjeman.com/sounds-of-wales

2 March
Orchard Centre Didcot
DIDCOT SUNDAY MARKET: MOTHERING SUNDAY GIFTS
0777 1967633

3 - 4 March
Oxford Town Hall's ballroom
THE NIGHT BALL
Part of Play house Plays Out, The Night Ball is an exuberant display of colourful choreography

accompanied by a brilliantly inspired soundtrack. The audience will take their seat at a table on the edge of the dance floor and watch wonderful dancers up close. After the performances, the music plays on, giving you the chance to throw your own moves or be partnered by a professional dancer.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

4 March, 8pm
Fat Lil's, Witney
DANNY & THE CHAMPIONS OF THE WORLD
With support from Sean Taylor + Trevor Moss & Hannah-Lou. Tickets £8 from Rapture in Witney, Truck Store Oxford and online www.wegotickets.com

5 March - 6 March, 8pm
The North Wall, Oxford
HAMMER AND TONGS
Hammer & Tongs digs deep into the human compulsion to argue the toss. From farcical fisticuffs at a wedding disco to squabbling for control of the TV remote, Theatre Alibi presents a very human comedy - physical, funny, absurd, musical, moving, and absolutely bloody-minded.
www.thenorthwall.com/01865319450

5 March - 8 March
The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury
GOD OF CARNAGE
The play is a sharp account of two couples tiptoeing around their mutual dislike. Described as a comedy of manners without the manners, the play deals with the aftermath of a playground altercation between two boys and what happens when their parents meet to talk about it. As the evening progresses, the alcohol flows and tensions emerge until finally the gloves come off.
[01295 279002](http://01295279002) www.themillartscenre.co.uk

5 March, 7:30pm - 10pm
Oxford Town Hall
VERDI'S REQUIEM
Don't miss the chance to hear this performance of Verdi's stunning masterpiece! St Giles Orchestra, Bicester Choral & Operatic Society, and Wantage Choral Society are joining forces to bring you what promises to be a fantastic evening in the fittingly splendid surroundings of Oxford Town Hall. Soloists: Karen Richmond, soprano; Jeanette Ager, contralto; Martin Quinn, tenor; Laurence Williams, bass.
[01865 305305](http://01865305305)

5 March - 8 March
Oxford Playhouse
THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE
University of Oxford student company Screw the Looking Glass, whose previous production Another Country was a Playhouse hit, presents this epic fable of comedy and adventure. Brecht's satirical masterpiece explores the far-reaching consequences of the smallest moral choices, pitting individual integrity against corruption and injustice.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

5 March - 8 March, 7:45pm - 9:45pm
The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury
BANBURY CROSS PLAYERS PRESENT YAZMINA REZA'S GOD OF CARNAGE (TRANSLATED BY CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON)
A playground altercation between two young boys brings their parents together in an attempt to resolve the matter. The evening progresses. The alcohol flows. Tensions emerge and finally the gloves come off

in this brutally entertaining, 2009 Tony Award winning play. This play contains strong language
TICKETS £ 8.00 / £ 9.00
[01295 279002](http://01295279002) / www.themillarts-centre.co.uk

5 March - 16 March
various locations around Oxford
OXFORD INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FESTIVAL
Around 30 exciting events are happening across 10 days in various locations around Oxford and the wider county. A very special line-up of activities is taking place to mark this milestone year, with the theme of 'Changes for Women, Women Making Changes'.
www.oxfordinternationalwomens-festival.co.uk

7 March, 8pm - 9:30pm
Merton College Chapel, Oxford
HOW DESOLATE LIES THE CITY - HILARY TERM CONCERT
A concert of Lenten choral music by Brahms, Bach, Mauersberger and Verdi, concluding with Pizzetti's Requiem.
<http://schola.ticketsource.co.uk/>

8 March, 8pm - 10pm
Jacqueline du Pré Music Building
FITZWILLIAM QUARTET
A wonderfully rich programme from the renowned Fitzwilliam Quartet.
www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

9 March, 3pm
Henley Town Hall
ALLEN DIGITAL THEATRE ORGAN - ROBERT WOLFE
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www.henleyorgantrust.org.uk

9 March, 1pm - 3pm
St Gregory the Great School, Cricket Road, Oxford OX4 3DR
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9 March
O2 Academy Oxford
THE SELECTER
0844 477 2000

13 March, 8pm
The North Wall, Oxford
THE ADVENTURES OF ALVIN SPUTNIK: DEEP SEA EXPLORER
Seas have risen, billions have died. Alvin Sputnik must venture to the bottom of the ocean to save humanity. Direct from sell-out seasons in New York, Sydney, and Auckland, this piece uses projection, puppetry and live music to tell a micro-epic about enduring love and the end of the world.
www.thenorthwall.com/01865319450

13 March, 7:45pm
Sparsholt, Near Wantage
'BOOKS AT THE BARN'
with Ed Stourton
www.wantagebetjeman.com/books-at-the-barn

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RUGBY LEAGUE IN OXFORD

Rugby League is currently being developed at grassroots level in Oxford and Bartholomew School is at the centre of its development. The school currently has three year groups playing rugby league and with the sport also being developed at Abingdon & Witney College they now do not have to travel huge distances in order to play fixtures.

Last year saw a new semi professional side come to Oxford and play in Championship One. Bartholomew School PE Teacher John Connaughton was lucky enough to sign for the club in their debut season and he made his professional debut against Halifax in the Challenge Cup. John is now focussing his efforts on developing the next generation as there is now a clear player pathway in Oxford for youngsters to progress all the way to the top in the sport. 'The coaching that I received from the likes of Tony Benson and Martin Roddy was the best I've ever had and as a result I am now able to pass on what I've learned to the students I teach at Bartholomew'

Bartholomew Sixth Formers are currently involved in a Project that has been set up in line with Sky Sports Living for Sport. The project sees 70 of the current Year 7 boys representing their tutor groups as they play fixtures against each other in a rugby 7's league. The sixth formers involved completed a Rugby League Young Leaders Award last year and they then took on coaching roles with the Year 7 tutor groups beginning in November 2013. The Rugby League World Cup was used as part of the project and all students involved took part in a draw which determined which country they would represent once the league fixtures got underway. The games are now being played every Thursday lunchtime and it sees the likes of England taking on New Zealand as well as other countries such as Fiji and the USA.



BARTHOLOMEW STUDENTS GAIN RUGBY LEAGUE QUALIFICATION

The sport is providing a number of students with some excellent opportunities, the sixth form media students are filming games and conducting pitch side interviews of the coaches and players which is all edited then used in videos. There are also a number of sixth formers who are taking on the role of head coach and some of the Year 10 and 11 Sports Leaders and Gifted and Talented students are their assistant coaches so it is hoped they can carry the project on year on year.

Three of Bartholomew's sixth form students achieved their Level 1 UKCC Certificate in Coaching Rugby League on Sunday 26th January after completing two full days of coaching and assessment.

After the successful delivery of the Rugby League Young Leaders Award in July 2013, Robyn Coburn, Adam Moss and John Rees were all asked to apply for a place on the Level 1 Coaching Course as course leader Andy Lindley spotted leadership potential in the three.

The newly qualified coaches will have the chance to develop their coaching skills in rugby league by becoming involved in the schools Sky Sports Living for Sport Project currently being run for the year 7 boys. It is an inter form rugby league 7's tournament named 'The Steve Prescott Memorial Shield' after the rugby league legend Steve Prescott who sadly lost the battle against cancer in November 2013.

It is hoped that the three coaches can go on to complete their Level 2 qualification at some point in the near future so the delivery can then branch out into the local primary schools.



From left to right: Robyn Coburn, Adam Moss, John Rees and Andy Lindley (course leader)

Two Year 8 students,
Pavel Asenov and Jake Holton,
have qualified to be members of the
England Junior Chess Squad.

Pavel will play with the national squad in the
Czech Republic in April, and hopes
to play in the European Youth
Championship in Georgia in October.

Jake will play with the national squad in
Gibraltar in August and is nominated to
play in November at the World Schools
Championship in Brazil.

Both Pavel and Jake play regularly in
tournaments against adults at
the weekends and are active members
of the Witney Chess Club.



BARTHOLOMEW STUDENTS SELECTED FOR ENGLAND HOCKEY

It's quite a rarity for 3 students from the same school to be selected to train for the England Hockey Squad (Under 16's and Under 18's) and in a sport where most successful students hail from private schooling, quite an accolade.

The skill, passion and determination (not to mention the parental taxi service) of Lucy Millington (Year 11), Callum Chapman (Year 10) and Ethan Chapman (Year 12) has seen the students training once a month with the England coaches. Lucy and Callum training for the Under 16's (girls and boys respectively) and Ethan the Under 18's. Whether the students are selected for positions in the England squad will be confirmed after the last of a series of Hockey Camps, taking place in February half term.

All three have now secured places in the England squad.

Congratulations to them all!

Louisa Cox
Marketing and Publicity/Bartholomew School



Puzzles

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Sudoku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

9		1		5		3	4	
		5	1				6	7
	3		4	2	8			
8	9	7			6			5
	6		8		4		1	
3			5			6	8	2
			9	4	1			
6	7					1		
	4	8		6		5		3

6	5						1	7
3		4		9		2		6
	3		6		5		2	
8								5
	6		8		4		9	
5		3		6		9		1
2	1						8	4

			8		1	2		
	3	6					4	
2	5							
7				9				
		4	2		5	8		
				7				9
							3	7
	8					6	5	
		2	3		9			

Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

- 4 Ratify (6)
- 8 Part (7)
- 9 Is of use (6)
- 10 Servant (9)
- 11 Encourage (4)
- 13 Hard structure for biting (5)
- 14 Distribute widely (7)
- 16 Expels (7)
- 18 Harmful bacteria (5)
- 19 Soon (4)
- 21 Seasoning (9)
- 22 Kind of shoe (6)
- 23 Stupidity (7)
- 24 Egyptian leader (6)

Quick Clues Down

- 1 Wellbred men (9)
- 2 Heed (9)
- 3 Links (5)
- 5 Measurements (4)
- 6 Turn upsidedown (6)
- 7 Man who rules others (6)
- 9 Light meal (5)
- 11 Farthest (9)
- 12 Sprout (9)
- 15 Backless seat (5)
- 16 Fruit (6)
- 17 Indicates (6)
- 20 Snake (5)
- 21 Worry (4)

Cryptic Clues Across

- 4 It upsets us to be insensitive (6)
- 8 Calmed down when all agreed (7)
- 9 Not an upright type (6)
- 10 He's a key worker (9)
- 11 Plots for sleepyheads (4)
- 13 Spruce up for the wedding (5)
- 14 They should know the rules of the game (7)
- 16 Hold it! (7)
- 18 Mock the noisy bumpkin (5)
- 19 Muse about the birds (4)
- 21 Explosives at the sack factory (9)
- 22 Followed Sue in the end (6)
- 23 Her telephone call is fishy (7)
- 24 I'd get in rank more neatly (6)

Cryptic Clues Down

- 1 Joint opportunity in space (5,4)
- 2 Not footwear for sailors! (9)
- 3 It appears one should look at the manuscript (5)
- 5 Where one's liable to get into hot water (4)
- 6 It's not so pretty to lure G.I. (6)
- 7 The sexes are about to take a hundred what intemperance! (6)
- 9 Times change newspaper articles (5)
- 11 William fed up with the poster? (9)
- 12 Let's have no humbug getting the sailors out of bed (9)
- 15 54 I'd make black and blue (5)
- 16 Join me in a small amount (6)
- 17 Tended to sunder apart (6)
- 20 He's revolting (5)
- 21 Destiny we hear is a holiday (4)

	1		2		3		4	5		6		7
8												
							9					
10												
										11	12	
13							14					
						15						
16		17							18			
19								20				
						21						
22												
							23					
24												

Scribble space

Last week's solutions

8	3	7	4	6	5	9	2	1
1	5	6	2	3	9	7	4	8
9	2	4	7	1	8	3	5	6
2	4	1	6	8	3	5	9	7
3	9	8	5	7	2	1	6	4
6	7	5	1	9	4	8	3	2
4	1	2	3	5	7	6	8	9
7	8	3	9	4	6	2	1	5
5	6	9	8	2	1	4	7	3

1	4	9	8	2	3	6	5	7
6	5	7	1	4	9	8	2	3
8	2	3	6	5	7	1	4	9
4	9	8	2	3	6	5	7	1
2	3	6	5	7	1	4	9	8
5	7	1	4	9	8	2	3	6
3	6	5	7	1	4	9	8	2
9	8	2	3	6	5	7	1	4
7	1	4	9	8	2	3	6	5

7	9	6	3	5	4	2	8	1
5	8	4	7	1	2	6	3	9
3	2	1	9	6	8	7	4	5
4	1	8	2	9	6	5	7	3
2	5	3	4	8	7	1	9	6
9	6	7	1	3	5	4	2	8
1	7	5	8	2	9	3	6	4
6	4	9	5	7	3	8	1	2
8	3	2	6	4	1	9	5	7

Quick Crossword

Across: 1 Podium 7 Plateau 8 Incisor 9 Tiers
10 Geography 12 Rag 13 Seas 15 Terrace 17 Hate 19 Hen
21 Fattening 22 Wheel 23 Oppress 24 Suction 25 Unites
Down: 1 Priggish 2 Doctor 3 Upsurge 4 Hasty 5 Recede
6 Fuss 7 Preparation 11 Gate 13 Seen 14 Suggests 16
Cheapen 18 Trench 20 Nicest 21 Flair 22 Wise

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Steers 7 Galatea 8 Uncover 9 Phlox 10 Film stars
12 See 13 Isle 15 Addenda 17 Gist 19 Egg 21 Teaspoons
22 Delay 23 Nettled 24 Retreat 25 Adonis
Down: 1 Stuffing 2 Excels 3 Revised 4 Claps 5 Stalls 6 Marx
7 Grease paint 11 Meat 13 Iago 14 Episodes 16 Deputed
18 Salute 20 Goblin 21 Types 22 Dark

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Competitions

WIN tickets to the Ideal Home Show for you and a friend

THIS March, the award winning Ideal Home Show will return for its 106th year and we are offering five lucky readers the chance to go for free!

Running from 14th - 30th March at London's Earls Court and with seven sections including: Ideal Interiors, Ideal Show Homes, Ideal Gardens, Ideal Home Improvements, Ideal Technology, Ideal Food & Housewares, Ideal Shopping and Ideal Woman this year's show is set to be the biggest and best yet.

Some of the stand outs of the show will be **Celebrities Galore** - hosted by fabulous celebrity Ambassadors which include; TV presenter and architect George Clarke, gadget expert Suzi Perry,

Closing date
Friday, February 28

food critic Gregg Wallace, garden expert Diarmuid Gavin, interiors icon Laurence Llewellyn-Bowen, and TV presenter Melinda Messenger as ambassador of Ideal Woman, there will be more live demonstrations and expert advice than the show has ever seen.

The Super Theatre - the celebrity ambassadors will also be taking to the returning Ideal Super Theatre - a purpose-built stage which will host talks and demonstrations from the celeb-

rities and a whole host of other household names including Martin Lewis, Founder and Editor of Moneysavingexpert.com, making it the ultimate place to pick up the tips and tricks to improve your home.

Ideal Show Village - The centre piece of this year's show will see a series of 5 Show Homes, the largest Village to date, built in Earls Court for visitors to explore. The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment has this year invested in three different homes to suit different markets - first time buyers, families or retired couples.

In addition the Ideal Home Show will also feature a further unique show home:

A breakthrough in housing, the Multi-Generation Home, styled by House Beautiful, is a property that can be taken to site, erected and become habitable within 24 hours. The Generation Home aims to be the answer to the current housing shortage and tailored to suit how families live together today, with multiple generations using the same space for different needs.

So whether you're a domestic goddess or a DIY disaster there's something for everyone!

To win tickets for you and a friend simply answer the following question:

Q: HOW MANY YEARS HAS THE IDEAL HOME SHOW BEEN RUNNING FOR?
IS IT 106 YEARS, 60 YEARS OR 16 YEARS?

Terms and conditions apply and are available at oxfordjournal.co.uk

To enter this competition:

Just send your answer along with your name, address and telephone number to competitions@oxfordshireguardian.co.uk

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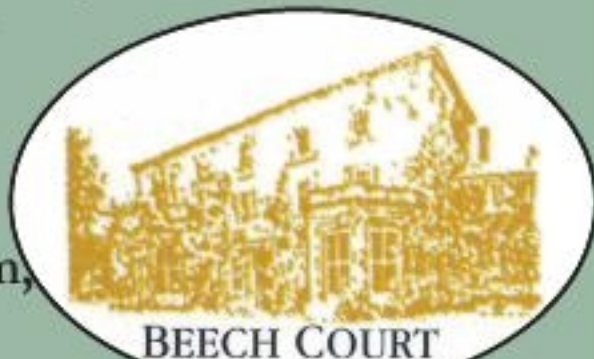
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Wednesday 5 March 7.30pm

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Hair & beauty feature

Put some bounce in your bonce

JANUARY and February are undoubtedly the month's of diet talk and slimming chat. But there's one area that many women are in constant pursuit of fattening up - the top of our heads. It's estimated that around 10.9 million women in the UK have fine hair - that's 40% of the female population, according to Kantar World Panel consumer research.

While the ageing process can result in thinning tresses due to hormonal changes, a dramatic difference in hair texture can strike at any age, with triggers including poor diet, extreme stress, hormonal imbalances or childbirth.

"Big or 'fat' hair is the picture of health and can make even the most ordinary of outfits look fabulous," says Katie Hamburger, creative stylist at Regis

By Lisa Haynes

Salons.

"It's thick, healthy and full of life, so it all starts with keeping your hair in great condition."

Go big on the prep and fling back a fuller mane for spring.

Body building

It's impossible to create more hair, but you can lather up with products that create thicker, healthier locks right from the follicle.

Choose a thickening shampoo, apply into your palms and give your scalp a DIY massage for a couple of minutes. Massaging the scalp can stimulate blood

flow, which can strengthen hair roots.

"Apply a light conditioner to ends only, so the strands aren't weighed down by any extra product," Hamburger advises.

For an extra volumising boost, she recommends a leave-in treatment specifically for thinning hair, which strengthens and improves the density of each hair strand, while creating volume and thickening the hair.

Heavyweight styling

How you wear your hair can make all the difference between fine or fabulous. Avoid styles that hang limp around your face and opt for bodyifying layers and clever cuts.

"A shorter cut will help when it comes to thinning hair, as well as adding in

layers to create body and movement," says Norris Ogario, founder and creative director of Ogario.

"Trying a different parting can also work wonders - a sweeping fringe can create the illusion of thicker locks."

Gentle waves will add extra texture and a fuller appearance. Place inch sections of hair into medium-size rollers all over the head, apply heat with a hairdryer, then let them cool completely.

If you prefer your hair off your face, certain styles can give the gift of volume - try a Bardot-inspired ponytail that involves a bit of backcombing on day-old hair.

3D colour boost

Hair colour has evolved from simple 'blonde', 'brunette' or 'cover grey' ambitions to transformative textural

results.

"Ask for a multi-tonal colour - it's a bit like a 3D effect," says Josh Wood, hair colour expert. "If you have a slightly darker, medium and lighter colour, it will look as though you have almost three times the amount of hair than with a single shade."

Using different tones on different areas of the hair, a skilled colourist will play on light and dark to create the illusion of thicker looking hair.

"Roots that are a little bit darker and ends that look lighter will generally make your hair look fuller," Wood advises.

Simply having colour in your hair can also have a physical effect. Hair that's coloured has been chemically processed, which gives the feeling of slightly bulkier tresses.

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Headmaster Mr Mark Pearce

Term Dates 4 September 2014 – 4 July 2015

Age of Pupils 3 - 13

Sex of pupils Boys & Girls

Fees per term Day (£2,370 - £4,550).

Boarding: (£5,790 - £6,730)

Founded 1947

Entry requirements As a non selective school, we do not ask prospective pupils to sit an entrance exam.

Curriculum Our broad, balanced curriculum enable children to develop lively and enquiring young minds and the curriculum allows for differentiation within year groups.

Extra-curricular activities We offer fantastic co-curricular opportunities ranging from traditional sports such as cricket, netball, tennis and hockey to other sports including fencing, sailing, horse riding and archery.

Food and nutrition All food is prepared for by our in-house catering department and we can cater for a wide range of dietary requirements.

Schools philosophy We provide a nurturing yet challenging school environment which ably prepares children for life's journey. Our secure and friendly learning environment inspires individual excellence and ensures that children progress to their chosen



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01235 225700 enquiries@kaacademy.org

Executive Headteacher Simon Spiers B Ed
Hons NPQH

Head of School Jo Halliday BSc Hons DipM NPQH

Age of pupils 11 - 18

Mixed secondary school – Ofsted Outstanding

Highest performing state sixth form in Oxfordshire at A level (33% A* - A; 64% A* - B) and second-highest at GCSE (73% 5 A* - C including Maths (78%) and English (81%).

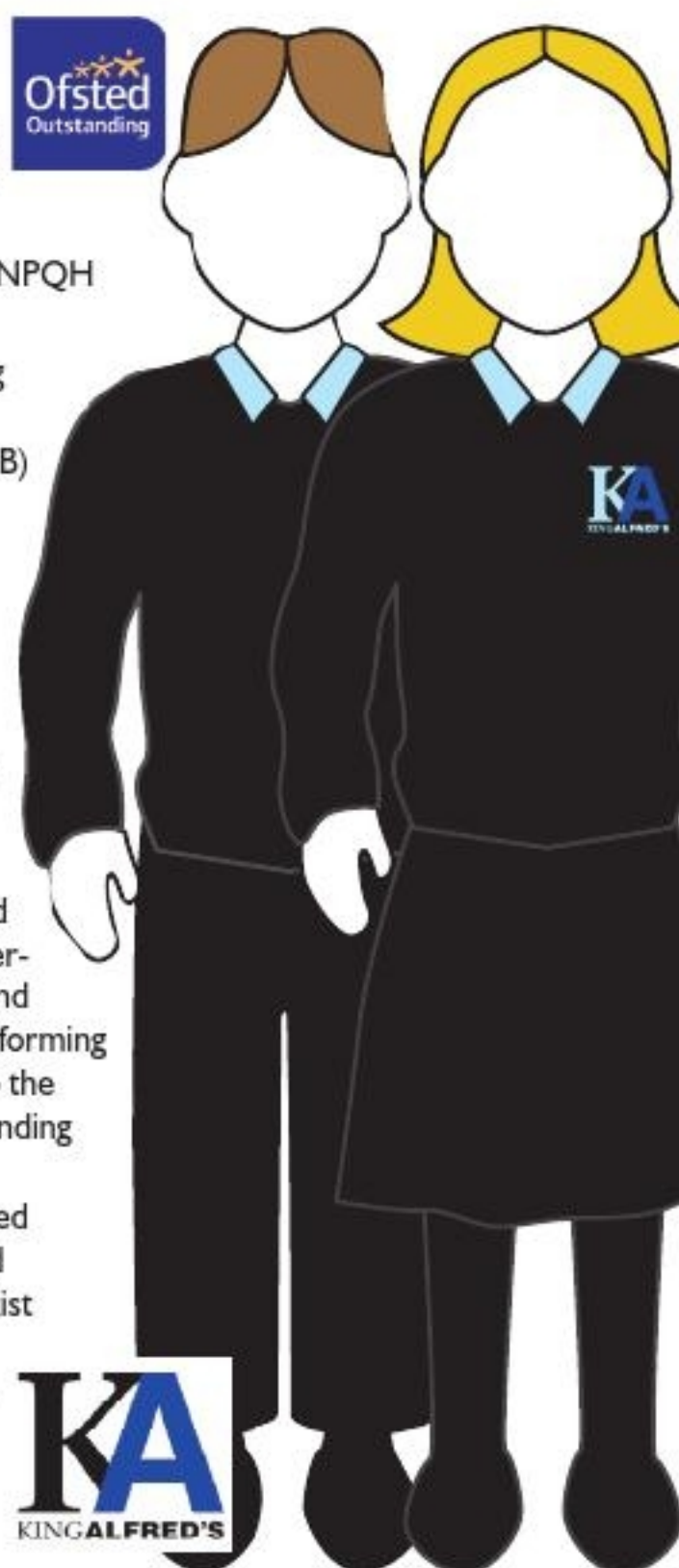
Founded 1597

Curriculum Two year Key Stage 3 followed by three year Key Stage 4, allowing for a personalised curriculum to ensure students remain focused and motivated throughout their studies and every individual achieves to the best of their potential.

Extra Curricular Activities Highly acclaimed enrichment programme includes over 100 after-school clubs and activities plus range of trips and visits. Highly Able Programme for highest performing students. Curriculum enrichment is central to the ethos of the academy and underpins its outstanding academic success.

School's Philosophy The Academy's continued success is centred on outstanding teaching and learning and the excellent relationships that exist between students, staff, parents and our community. King Alfred's believes that active learning is the key to academic success, along with the breadth of educational opportunities offered beyond the classroom.

www.kaacademy.org



DIDCOT GIRLS' SCHOOL

Manor Crescent, Didcot, Oxfordshire.

OX11 7AJ

01235 812092 headteacher@didcotgirls.oxon.sch.uk

Head Teacher Mrs R Warwick MA Oxon, NPQH

Sex of pupils Girls (11-16), Mixed (16-18)

A dynamic and exciting school well on its way to being outstanding in all areas. We are an all girls' secondary school with a mixed sixth form, Didcot Sixth Form College, run in partnership with St Birinus School. Last year's GCSE results place us in the top performing state schools in the county with over 70% 5A*-C inc English and Maths and 25% of students gaining 5 or more A and A* grades. Record A level results at all levels in 2013.

Curriculum: Students study for three years for GCSE qualifications, building independent learning skills, following a two year Key Stage 3 (Yrs 7 & 8). Students are able to study Mandarin Chinese, Spanish, French and German to A level and results in this largely traditional curriculum are excellent with E-Bacc achievement very high year on year. The Ulysses Group is offered for gifted and talented students in Key Stage 4 feeding into the Russell Group in the sixth form: over 30% of students achieved places at Russell Group universities last summer.

Extra Curricular: We foster a love of learning through a rich and high quality range of extra-curricular trips, clubs and activities. Students are able to travel China, Spain, France, Germany and Sweden each year. Of particular note, our Science Clubs have excellent links with Oxford University and our sports and performing arts provision is exceptional.

School's Philosophy: We are committed to developing leadership skills in girls through our bespoke Leadership Ladder and a vibrant House system. We offer a happy and inclusive school and a strong community ethos. All girls' education enables our students to

develop confidence, resilience and exceptionally high levels of aspiration. We aspire to excellence in all that we do.

www.didcotgirls.oxon.sch.uk



Didcot Girls' School

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KINGHAM HILL SCHOOL

Kingham, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire OX7 6TH

01608 658999 secretary@kingham-hill.oxon.sch.uk

www.kingham-hill.oxon.sch.uk

Head Teacher Mr N. Seward

Sex of pupils Boys and Girls Age of pupils 11-18

Founded 1886

Mission Our Mission is to... Provide an excellent all-round education within a distinctively Christian context. We welcome talented pupils from a wide range of backgrounds and circumstances, and aim to produce young people of vision, faith, and character, who are well-qualified and equipped to flourish in their adult lives.

Entrance Requirement We accept pupils of average ability and better. Very able pupils benefit from the specialist input of Octagon, our academic society. All pupils receive just the right balance of challenge and encouragement to help them reach their full academic potential.

Campus Most first time visitors to the school experience the 'wow' factor as they turn into our grounds and make their way along the main drive. We are surrounded by our stunning 96 acre site and delightful rolling Cotswold countryside. We also lie just a short walk from Kingham, 'England's favourite village'.

Extra-curricular We recognise that there is more to life than academic study. Kingham Hill has open access to a whole range of activities both on campus and further afield, which enhances the all-round development of our pupils. These include a wide range of clubs and many other occasional recreational opportunities.

We also encourage our pupils to get involved in community service, charity work and charity fundraising.



School life

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WALLINGFORD SCHOOL

Wallingford School, St George's Road, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 8HH

01491 837 115 head.4140@wallingfordschool.com

Head Teacher Mr N. J. Willis

Sex of pupils Boys and girls Age 11-18 years

Wallingford was the highest attaining state school in Oxfordshire at GCSE in 2012 and 2013. Last year our students achieved 76% 5A* - C with English (80%) and mathematics (81%). Our value added score puts us in the top 4% nationally. Our boys would finish third equal in the county on their own, while the girls secured a tremendous 83% 5A*-C with English and maths. Most impressive is the outstanding progress of our students, from the lower ability to the very high achieving. This is remarkable for a school that accepts all students regardless of academic profile, income, gender or faith.

Year on year our Sixth Form value added results place us in the top 25% of the country for students studying pure A Levels and for those combining them with vocational courses. Our results are particularly strong in the more rigorous 'facilitating' subjects and every student applying to university on results day is successful.

Our curriculum has always been centred upon a traditional academic offer, supplemented with vocational courses where appropriate. There is very strong support for our gifted students, running from induction to university entry, detailed in a bespoke prospectus. There is also a separate publication for those who experience difficulty learning.

Extra-curricular The extra-curricular offer is extensive. It ranges from clubs and teams in the school week, through day trips to longer residential visits to places in the UK and Europe, with the expeditions to places like Borneo and Nicaragua at the more adventurous end. We also offer the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Mission Our aim is to send everyone into the world able and qualified to play their full part. We do not employ any eye-catching strategies or unique structures. We do the simple things well, through very hard work indeed. The real achievement of the staff is that they have created a high-performing school while keeping a happy, warm atmosphere. We think this is because of a real love of teaching and learning, allied to clear boundaries for behaviour. Working and studying at Wallingford is a real privilege; one we earn through hard work and respect for each other. Young people thrive here.



Prep list: Do's and don'ts for parents

• Start planning early

Choose the secondary school or schools you would like your child to attend and work backwards: which is the best pre-prep or nursery, prep or primary school to get there? Choose a school that suits your child, not your ambitions.

• Do your homework

Learn about prospective schools for your child and visit, visit, visit. You should be looking seriously by the time your child is eight or nine years old.

• Get involved

Take an interest in what your child is learning and make yourself familiar with the types of tests set by schools. But don't bore your child to death – they can't spend all evening doing practice papers.

• Prepare your child

Prepare your child for interview but beware of coaching. If you do, your child may come out with something painful, like: "Mummy and Daddy told me to say I was a perfectionist."

• Consider tutoring

Think about hiring a private tutor if, say, your child is going for entrance to an independent day school or grammar school. But don't turn your child's life into a miserable round of nonstop coaching.

• Stay calm

Do not convey the stress you feel to your child, particularly at exam time. Your attitude should be that your child is applying to three or four wonderful schools and you would be happy with any of them.

What schools must publish on their website

Schools must put on their website: how much money they get from taking under-privileged children (the 'pupil premium'), what they do with it and the effect it's had

- details of the curriculum
- admission criteria
- behaviour policy
- special educational needs policy
- policy on disability
- links to Ofsted reports
- links to performance data
- the school's latest Key Stage 2 and 4 attainment and progress measures

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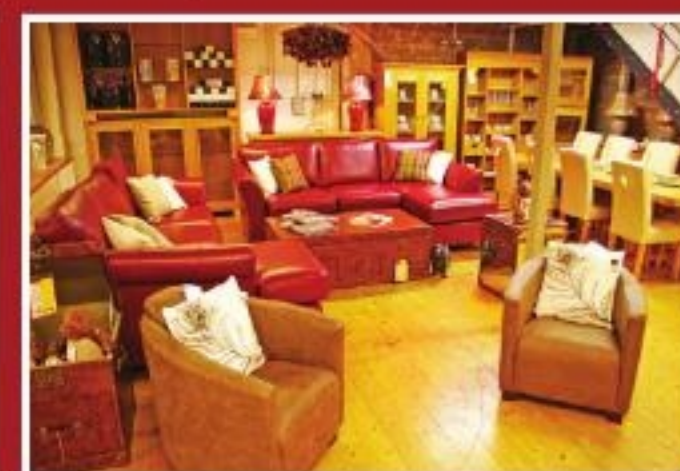
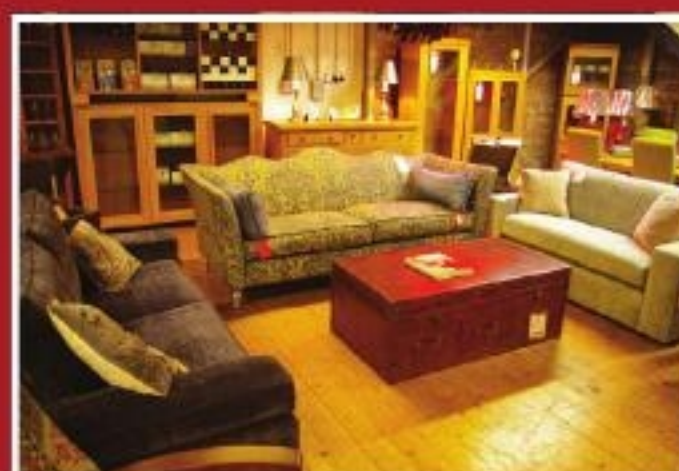
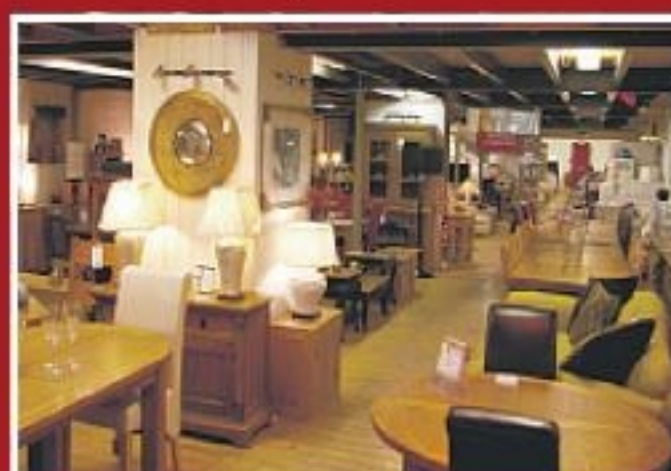
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THE Ford Fiesta begins 2014 not only as the nation's favourite car, but also a double What Car? Awards winner.

Britain's 2014 Best Small Car and Best Hot Hatch according to What Car? is number one small car for the second year running – reflecting consumer sales in the UK, where it also retained its number one position.

Chas Hallett, What Car? editor-in-chief, said: "No other car in this class can beat the Fiesta's excellent ride and handling."

"The Fiesta ST is a total and utter triumph."

"It is too soon to tell whether it will join the ranks of the hot hatch legends but we certainly wouldn't bet against it."

It is also second year in a row that

REVIEW: FORD FIESTA

By **Andy Allens**

Ford has triumphed in the Hot Hatch category – 2013's winner was the 250PS Focus ST.

Sales in Britain during 2013 saw the Ford Fiesta top the UK car charts every month of the year, with total sales at almost 122,000 – the best year for Fiesta since 1996.

The Fiesta, which was awarded the maximum five-star safety rating by the independent vehicle safety organisation Euro NCAP, is also among the most keenly priced small cars in Britain. The range starts at £9,995 for the 3-door, 1.25-litre Studio model.



• The Ford Fiesta

Facts at a glance

- 121,929 UK Fiesta sales in 2013, the most in a single year since 1996 (139,552)
- Fiesta was the top-selling UK car every month of 2013
- 2013 was the fifth successive year that Fiesta has been the UK best seller
- 67% of Fiesta sales are of five-

door models

- 65% are Zetec models, 22% Titanium, 10% Style and 3% ST
- 41% of buyers opt for the 1.0 litre petrol engine, 36% for the 1.25 petrol and 9% for the 1.6 petrol; 14% choose the 1.5/1.6 diesel
- 6% of buyers choose automatic transmission

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08 08 FOCUS STYLE 1.6 PETROL 100PS STYLE, 5 dr, ocean blue me/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, PAS, r/CD, a/c, HFS, front fogs, alloys, 6 airbags, ABS, ESP, low mileage, FSH, 35,959 miles



£8,995

11 60 FIESTA ZETEC 1.4 AUTO 96PS, petrol, 5dr, moon dust silver met/grey, e/w & power folding mirrors, rear park sensors, c/l, front fogs, PAS, r/CD, 5 airbags, 5 spd, a/c, HFS, alloys, ABS, ESP, very low mileage 5,700 miles, one owner from new,



£4,795

09 09 KA STUDIO 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, strobe met/grey, 5 spd, PAS, r/CD 2 a/b, ABS, 2 local owners, FSH, only £30 12 months RFL, 53,400 miles



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09 09 FIAT DOBLO DYNAMIC ESTATE 1.4 8V PETROL, 5dr, single wheel chair conversion, 3 SEATS, met red/grey, 5spd, PAS, c/l, access ramp & winch, r/

MONDEO

10 60 MONDEO TITANIUM 2.0 PETROL 1.4PS TITANIUM, 5spd, 5 dr, chill met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB radio CD, heated windscreen, climate control, front fogs, alloys, ABS, ESP, cruise, front & rear park sensors, PAS, 7 a/b, auto lights & wipers, Blue tooth, service history, one owner from new, 35,814 miles.....£8,495

FOCUS

10 10 FOCUS 1.6 TDCI 110PS 5DR 5SPD ZETEC, panther black met/grey, ew&m, c/l, front fogs, PAS, a/c, HFS, alloys, 6 airbags, ABS, ESP, rear park sensors, 2 owners from new, £30RFL per year, 17,696 miles.....£8,995

12 61 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 125PS AUTOMATIC 6 SPD ZETEC, 5dr, moon dust silver/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB radio & CD, Blue tooth, PAS, a/c, alloys, HFS, front fogs, 6 airbags, ESP, ABS, FSH, one owner from new, very low mileage 3,495 miles.....£12,695

08 08 FOCUS STYLE 1.6 PETROL 100PS STYLE, 5 dr, ocean blue me/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, PAS, r/CD, a/c, HFS, front fogs, alloys, 6 airbags, ABS, ESP, low mileage, FSH, 35,959 miles.....**SOLD**

09 09 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL TITANIUM AUTO, 5dr, moon dust silver/grey, e/w&m, cruise control, auto lights & wipers., c/l, alloys, DAB radio/CD, climate, HFS, 6 airbags, ABS, ESP, 2 owners from new, very low mileage, FSH, 14,055 miles.....£7,595

06 56 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL ZETEC CLIMATE, 5 dr, tonic blue met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, PAS, a/c, HFS, front fogs, 6 airbags, ABS, 2 owners from new, service history, 67,747 miles.....£4,795

11 11 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 115PS ZETEC, 3dr, colorado red/grey, e/w&m, c/l, Blue tooth USB, air con, 5 spd, ABS, ESP, front fogs, HFS, DAD radio/CD, alloys, PAS, 6 airbags, a/c, FSH, one owner from new, very low mileage 27,638 miles.....£8,995

11 61 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 125PS ZETEC, 5dr, midnight sky met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB radio & CD, PAS, Blue tooth, alloys, front fogs, heated windscreen, ABS, ESP, 29,000 miles.....£10,395

08 08 FOCUS 1.8 PETROL 125PS STYLE, 5dr, panther black/grey, c/l, r/CD, e/w&m, PAS, a/c, front fogs, 6 airbags, ESP, 2 owners from new, service history, 53,446 miles.....£5,595

12 61 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 125PS ZETEC ESTATE, colorado red/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB r/CD, alloys, a/c, ABS, ESP, HFS, front fogs, 6 airbags, Blue tooth USB, rear park sensors, 12 months manufacturers warranty, one owner from new, FSH, 17,900 miles.....£11,995

11 60 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL SPORT, 5dr, frozen white/grey titanium, sat nav, Bluetooth, USB, rear park sensors, a/c, alloys, HFS, auto wipers & headlamps, front fogs, e/front windows & mirrors, ABS, 6 airbags, one owner, FSH, 33,500 miles.....£8,995

13 63 FOCUS 1.0 100PS PETROL ZETEC NAVIGATOR NEW MODEL, 5dr, deep impact blue met/grey, sat nav, B'tooth & USB, e/w & m, 17" alloys, privacy glass, ABS, EP, reverse park sensors, 6 airbags, 2 years old and 9 months manufacturer's warranty, only £20 RFL per year, 3,413 miles.....£13,995

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11 60 FIESTA ZETEC 1.4 AUTO 96PS, petrol, 5dr, moon dust silver met/grey, e/w & power folding mirrors, rear park sensors, c/l, front fogs, PAS, r/CD, 5 airbags, 5 spd, a/c, HFS, alloys, ABS, ESP, very low mileage 5,700 miles, one owner from new, FSH.....£8,995

11 60 FIESTA 1.25 PETROL ZETEC 82PS, 5dr, ink blue met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, front fogs, 5 airbags, aircon, HFS, alloys, ABS, ESP, one owner from new, FSH, 35,948 miles.....£8,595

10 60 FIESTA TITANIUM 1.4 PETROL 96PS, 5dr, ink blue met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, front fogs, cruise control, 5 airbags, alloys, radio/CD, ABS, ESP, PAS, climate, one owner from new, low mileage 15,000 miles, FSH.....£8,995

FUSION

10 60 FUSION 1.4 PETROL ZETEC, 5dr, moon dust silver met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, front fogs, r/CD, 2 airbags, PAS, HFS, alloys, ABS, air con, one owner from new, low mileage 19,300 miles.....£7,795

C MAX S MAX B MAX

12 12 GRAND C MAX 1.6 TDCI 115PS DIESEL ZETEC 7 SEATER MPV, midnight sky met/grey, e/w&m, heated windscreen, 6 spd, DAB radio & CD, PAS, c/l, ABS, ESP, Blue tooth, rear park sensors, 6 airbags, alloys, very low mileage 4,228 miles, one owner from new, FSH.....£13,995

12 12 S MAX 1.6T ECOBOOST 160PS TITANIUM, panther black met/grey, 6spd, e/w&m, r/CD, c/l, Blue tooth connectivity, HFS, climate, auto lights & wipers, front fogs, cruise, PAS, one owner, full service history, very low mileage 6,200 miles.....£16,595

11 11 C MAX 1.6 PETROL 125PS TITANIUM, micastone met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, heated windscreen, PAS, auto lights & wipers, ABS, ESP, convenience pack inc. park assist & fold mirrors, global closing, alloys, very low mileage 5,500 miles, one owner, FSH.....£11,995

13 13 B MAX ZETEC 1.0 ECOBOOST 125PS, 5 dr, midnight sky/grey, 5 spd, City pack, e/w&m, Ford Sync, power folding mirrors, rear park sensors, HFS, ABS, multiple airbags, alloys, ex-demonstrator, low mileage 8,800 miles, RFL £30 per year.....£12,995

KA

10 60 KA TITANIUM 1.2, petrol, 3dr, moonlight silver met/grey, 5 spd, PAS, r/CD, climate control, e/w&m, c/l, HFS, front fogs, alloys, 2 airbags, ABS, 2 owners from new, only £30 RFL per year, 34,827 miles.....£6,995

09 09 KA STUDIO 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, strobe met/grey, 5 spd, PAS, r/CD 2 a/b, ABS, 2 local owners, FSH, only £30 12 months RFL, 53,400 miles.....£4,795

13 63 KA STUDIO 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, flame red/grey, 5 spd, PAS, r/CD, 2 airbags, ABS, delivery mileage only 6 miles, RFL only £30 for 12 months, 3 years manufacturers warranty.....£7,995

13 63 KA STUDIO 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, crystal white/grey, 5 spd, PAS, r/CD, 2 airbags, ABS, delivery mileage only 6 miles, RFL only £30 for 12 months, 3 years manufacturers warranty.....£8,195

OTHER MAKES

09 59 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 1.6 AUTO, petrol, 5dr, safari gold, grey/red trim, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, alloys, a/c, front fogs, 6 a/bs, ABS, B'tooth, s/history, 2 owners from new, v low mileage 11,521.....£7,595

09 09 FIAT DOBLO DYNAMIC ESTATE 1.4 8V PETROL, 5dr, single wheel chair conversion, 3 SEATS, met red/grey, 5spd, PAS, c/l, access ramp & winch, r/CD, a/c, alloys, a arbags, e/w&m, TWO LOCAL OWNERS FROM NEW, VERY LOW MILEAGE 3,682 miles.....£6,995

07 57 VW POLO 1.2E 60PS, 3dr, blue met/grey, 5 spd, c/l, r/C, PAS, 2 airbags, ABS, low insurance group, RFL 12 months £125, FSH, 57,927 miles.....£4,395

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04 54 FOCUS .161 PETROL LX HATCH, tonic blue met/grey, 5 spd, a/c, PAS, e/w, heated front screen, alloys, r/CD, 4 airbags, ABS, 2 owners from new, 76,474 miles.....£3,495

03 53 FOCUS GHIA 2.0 PETROL AUTO ESTATE, deep rosso red met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, r & 6 CD player, PAS, climate, HFS, front fogs, alloys, 4 airbags, ABS, traction control, 3 owners from new, service history, low mileage for age 73,281 miles.....£3,495



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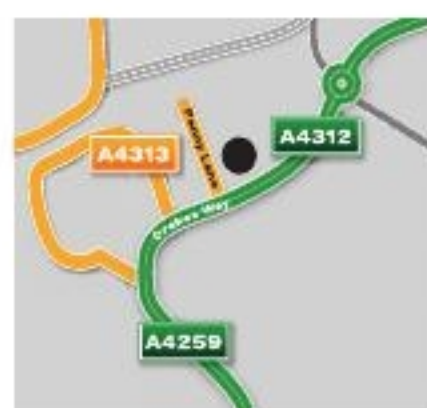
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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Honda Civic Tourer Launch

The Honda Civic Tourer debuted as a stunning concept early last year. After an official unveiling at the Frankfurt Motor Show in September, we had a look at the final production version, which matched the concept's exciting lines and futuristic details.

Now the Civic Tourer is on sale. The order books opened in December, and deliveries start this month.

Orders are already piling up, and it isn't difficult to see why - the Civic Tourer is a remarkable sight. The handsome rising beltline, swirling wheelarch treatments and adventurous swage lines immediately set the Tourer apart from more ordinary contenders in the segment. The long glasshouse is both attractive and practical, increasing visibility for the driver on the road. The rear end is particularly striking, with sweeping full-length tail lights and a centrally mounted exhaust.

It's not all style above substance. The rear door cuts low into the bumper for convenient load access and it has the largest boot in its class. Ahead of the sculpted rear end, the Tourer is a normal Civic, offering the same comfort and technology. Fuel consumption is similar too: equipped



with the new 1.6-litre Earth Dreams diesel engine, the Civic Tourer achieves 74.3 mpg and slips under the magic 99g/km CO₂ emissions figure that means owners will pay no road tax.

All that adds up to a car worth experiencing. The Honda Civic Tourer has already arrived at **Johnsons Honda** should you want to take a closer look. Contact us today to arrange a test drive.

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Fuel consumption figures for Civic Tourer 1.6 i-DTEC SE Plus in mpg (l/100km): Urban 67.3 (4.2), Extra Urban 78.5 (3.6), Combined 74.3 (3.8). CO₂ emissions: 99g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

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Fiat, the car brand with the lowest average CO₂ emissions in Europe†. Fuel consumption figures for the Fiat 500L range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 33.6 (8.4) – 62.8 (4.5); Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3) – 76.3 (3.7); Combined 44.1 (6.4) – 70.6 (4.0). CO₂ emissions 149 – 105 g/km. Fuel consumption and CO₂ figures based on standard EU tests for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. *The Fiat 500L and Fiat 500L MPW boot space is based on 5 seat version with rear seats pulled forward. †Based on 5+2 seat version. 5 standard seats and two extra seats for persons up to 1.65m. *The 0% APR HP offer is based on 36% customer deposit and 3 Year Term. Fiat Deposit Contribution of £500 is payable in addition to the 36% customer deposit. Deposit Contribution available across the Fiat 500L range and is only available in conjunction with Fiat Hire Purchase Low Cost and Fiat i-Deal Low Cost. Offer subject to status. A guarantee or indemnity may be required. January to March 2014 offer, valid from the 3rd January 2014. Fiat Financial Services, PO Box 4465, Slough SL1 0RW. We work with a number of creditors to provide finance to our customers, including Fiat Financial Services. Prices correct at time of printing. Offer may be varied and withdrawn at any time. Subject to availability. †Source: JATO Dynamics. Based on volume weighted average CO₂ emissions (g/km) of the best selling brands in Europe, full year 2012.



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Fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the range of Kia models shown are: Urban 31.0 (9.1) – 47.1 (6.0), Extra Urban 46.3 (6.1) – 58.9 (4.8), Combined 39.2 (7.2) – 54.3 (5.2). CO₂ emissions are 189 – 135g/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. 7 year /100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. For terms and exclusions visit kia.co.uk or see your local dealer. Price, Reevoo score and number of reviews correct at time of going to press and specification is subject to change without notice. Models shown: Sportage '1' 1.6 GDI 133bhp 6-speed manual @ £17,495 On The Road (OTR) excluding metallic paint at £495; Sorento 'KX-1' 2.2 CRDI 194bhp 6-speed manual 7 seat @ £24,695 including customer saving of £2,000 and excluding optional metallic paint at £535. OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) and Vehicle First Registration Fee. Retail customers only. Subject to availability on vehicles registered before 31 March 2014. *4.9% APR available on Kia Conditional Sale on all Sportage and Sorento models. 10% minimum deposit required. Maximum term of 36 months. Offer not available in conjunction with any other offer. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. 18's or over. Guarantees / indemnities may be required. Kia Motors Finance RH1 1SR. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission from them for the introduction. Customer savings vary by model derivative. Ask your dealer for full details. All based on 6,000 Miles Per Annum.

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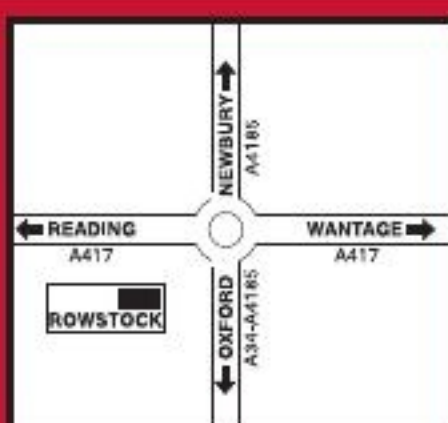
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07 07 FORD FOCUS 2.5 ST-2 5dr, met orange, sport seats, a/c, e/windows and mirrors, alloys, rear sensors, FSH, 85k £6,995



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09 59 TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 TR VVT-I, met grey, alloys, a/c, e/windows and mirrors, radio/CD, remote locking, FSH, 35k £6,495



13 63 BMW 420D 2.0 XDRIVE LUXURY COUPE, met grey with cream leather, sat nav, electric heated seats, 1 owner, only 950 miles £37,950



10 60 AUDI A3 1.6 TDI SE, met blue, 5dr, alloys, a/c, e/windows and mirrors, remote locking, FSH, 76k, £20 rfi £9,995



07 07 AUDI A4 2.7 TDI SE SALOON, met red with black leather, sat nav, CD changer, heated seats, FSH, 117k £6,795



10 10 MERCEDES C180 1.8 AUTO BLUEEFFICIENCY EXEC SE ESTATE, met black, sat nav with command, alloys, 1 owner, FSH, 78k £11,495



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10 60	TOYOTA AVENSIS 2.0 TD4 D-4D, met black, full cream leather, sat nav, heated seats, radio/CD, 78k, FSH.....	£9,995
10 60	AUDI A3 1.6 TDI SE, met blue, 5dr, alloys, a/c, e/windows and mirrors, remote locking, FSH, 76k, £20 rfi.....	£9,995
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07 07	BMW 320D 3.0 SE TOURING, met blue, alloys, parking sensors, climate control, cruise, FSH, 71k.....	£8,995
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10 60	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9 CDTI ELITE, met silver with full black leather, alloys, climate control, 1 owner, FSH, 53k.....	£7,995
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2008-58	VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.4 S, Black, 5 Dr, RCL, PAS, EW, AC, 44700 Miles	£5,995
2008-57	HONDA CIVIC 1.8 SE, Red, 5 Door, RCL, PAS, EW, AC, Alloys, 42600 Miles	£5,995
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2009-59	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 DESIGN, Silver, 5 Dr, RCL, PAS, EW, AC, Alloys, 49900 Miles	£5,495
2007-07	HONDA CIVIC 1.8 SE, Grey, 5 Door, RCL, PAS, EW, AC, ALLOYS, 69200 Miles	£5,495
2010-10	TOYOTA AYGO 1.0 BLUE, 3 Dr, Blue, RCL, PAS, EW, AC, Bluetooth, £20 Road Tax, 23900 Miles	£5,395
2005-55	MERCEDES BENZ C160 1.8 SE, Silver, 3 Door Coupe, RCL, PAS, EW, AC, Alloys, 50800 Miles	£4,995
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2007-57	RENAULT KANGOO 1.2, Wheel Chair Access Vehicle, Silver, 5 Dr, RCL, PAS, EW, 3 Seats, Wheel Chair Anchor Points, 32400 Miles	£4,495
2008-08	RENAULT CLIO 1.2 EXTREME, Silver, 3 Dr, RCL, PAS, EW, 21238 Miles	£4,495
2007-07	TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 ZINC, Silver, 5 Door, RCL, PAS, EW, AC, 73000 Miles	£4,495
2009-09	MITSUBISHI COLT 1.3 CZ2, Blue, 5 Dr, RCL, PAS, EW, AC, Alloys, 13700 Miles	£4,395
2010-10	KIA PICANTO 1.0, White, 5 Dr, PAS, EW, Dual Air bags, 44000 Miles	£4,295
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2010-10	RENAULT TWINGO 1.2 FREEWAY, Blue, 3 Dr, RCL, PAS, EW, 29000 Miles	£3,995
2006-56	VAUXHALL TIGRA 1.4 EXCLUSIV, Blue, 2 door Convertible, RCL, PAS, EW, Leather Seats, CD PLAYER, Alloys, 48000 Miles	£3,995
2004-04	HONDA JAZZ 1.4 SE AUTO, Silver, 5 Dr, RCL, PAS, EW, AC, 52987 Miles	£3,995
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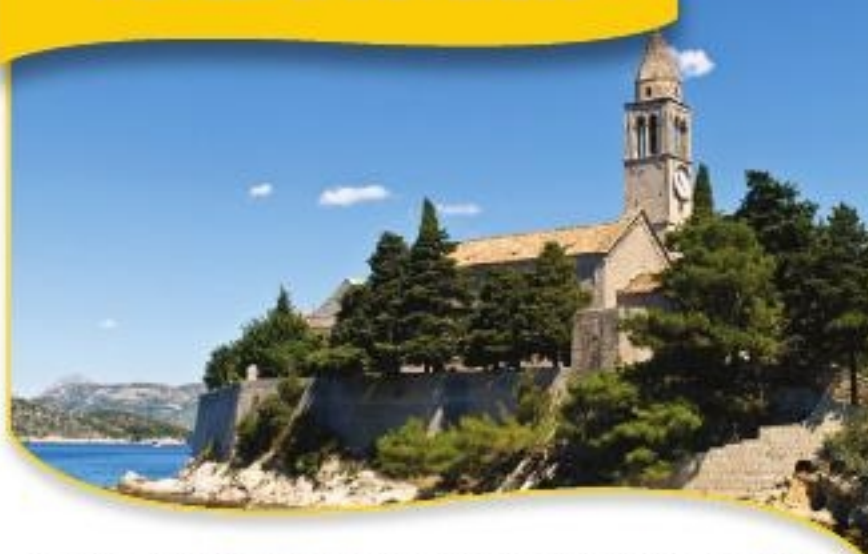
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The Pearl of the Adriatic

Sunday departures, 4, 11 & 18 May and 12 & 19 October 2014
From Gatwick airport

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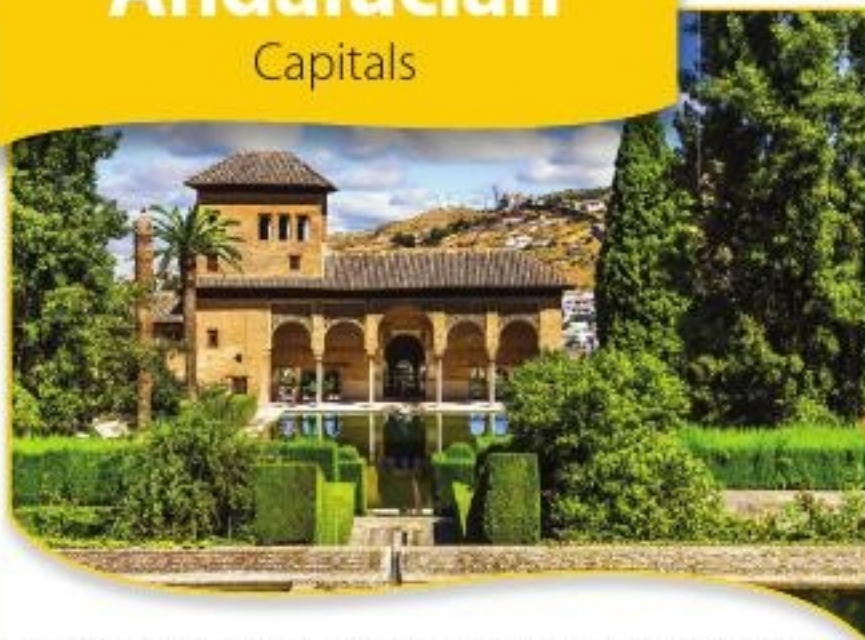
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Capitals

Thursday departures, 12 June and 4 & 25 September 2014
From Gatwick airport

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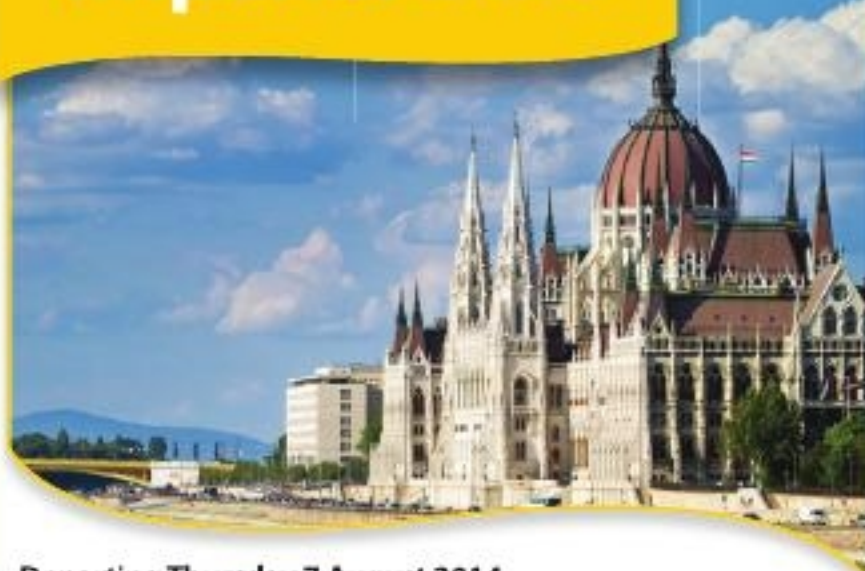
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Malta & Gozo
The idyllic islands

Tuesday departures, 6, 20 & 27 May and 7 October 2014
From Gatwick airport

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Set in the heart of the Mediterranean, the idyllic island of Malta has been described as one big open-air museum, with so much of its past being visible today including ancient temples and palaces, the world's oldest surviving free standing stone structures and red telephone boxes! A cultural gem bursting with a rich, diverse heritage, stunning scenery, great cuisine and an endearing charm.

Price includes:

- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Malta[†]
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From Gatwick airport

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United 'devastated' after Pirates' late equaliser

Smith 'pleased' with first test

BRADLEY Smith insists he is looking at the bigger picture after completing last week's three day test in Sepang.

The 23-year-old was eighth in the combined standings with a best time of 2:00.603, just over a second behind Marc Marquez, who was quickest across the three days.

Smith was only 11th quickest on the third day and insists the test was more about learning about the new Bridgestone tyres.

The Tech3 rider, who did over 180 laps across three days, said: "I tried to gain as much information and data, also doing a half race simulation at the end of the day with this new tyre, just to compare it with the one from last year."

"All in all I am pleased, even if the position on the time sheet does not seem to be ideal, it was never my main aim to set fast lap times."

"We are looking at the big picture, and preparing for the championship and we will try to be ready for Qatar."

Smith will have another chance to experiment when MotoGP heads back to Sepang for testing on February 26.

The 2014 season begins on March 23 at the Losail Circuit in Qatar.

Two wins for dominant Stars

OXFORD City Stars managed two wins from two at the weekend, as they first beat local rivals Swindon Wildcats and then Lee Valley Lions in the National Ice Hockey League Division Two.

Saturday's 6-2 win away to Swindon saw goals from six different players, courtesy of Josh Oliver, Darren Elliott, Alan Green, Josh Florey, Zach Dolphin and Jacob Smith.

Five of the goals came in the first period, and while Swindon were able to get on the scoresheet it was a comfortable win for the visitors.

If anything, Sunday's match at home to Lee Valley Lions was even more one-sided, as Stars crushed their opponents 10-1.

Scoring was again spread between the players, with Elliott and James Pentacost scoring twice, and goals also coming for Green, Smith, Joe Oliver, Sam Broughton, Nick Oliver and Josh Oliver.

The Lions had gone 1-0 ahead within the opening 17 seconds, but the rest of the game was all about the Stars as they avenged an earlier defeat to the visitors back in November.

Stars remain top of the league standings with 25 points from their 17 games, three ahead of nearest rivals Slough Jets.



• James Constable scored for Oxford United during last Saturday's draw at Bristol Rovers (Picture by Steve Daniels)

JOHN-JOE O'Toole's late header denied Oxford United the chance to move up to second in Sky Bet League Two as the U's were held to a 1-1 draw at struggling Bristol Rovers.

James Constable's thunderous half-volley put United ahead on 10 minutes, but O'Toole nodded home Lee Brown's free kick with six minutes to go.

The draw maintained Oxford's impressive unbeaten away record, which now stands at 14 league games, while the U's have now not lost in seven games.

However, Saturday's stalemate at the Memorial Stadium saw Oxford miss out on the chance to capitalise on league leaders

By Jack Johnson

jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Chesterfield and second-placed Scunthorpe sharing the spoils.

Caretaker manager Mickey Lewis said: "We had a little spell in the second half where we were quite dominant, but Bristol Rovers were always going to come at us at 1-0," he said.

"With 10 minutes to go we were always going to be under pressure, but if we had made it 2-0 that would have perhaps killed the game off."

"We would have liked to have been higher up the pitch, but it's easier said than done."

"We don't want to be sitting

back, but until they scored they had some possession and a few balls into the box and we still felt quite comfortable."

"We gave away two or three free-kicks in and around the box and they scored from one of them and then in the last five minutes you are always going to be under pressure."

United survived a few late scares to remain third in the league table but the players were still disappointed not to clinch victory on a very heavy pitch.

Lewis added: "The lads are devastated that they have drawn the game."

"It's totally different to the Bury atmosphere because we

were a goal down there and it just changes our perspective, but it's another point."

"We desperately wanted to win the game, but it's another point against a team who are fighting for their lives."

Oxford welcome Mansfield Town to the Kassam Stadium this Saturday and will be looking for a third home win in succession.

Winger Alfie Potter was on the bench at Bristol Rovers and will hope to play some part this weekend, while Lewis will hope to recall Michael Raynes and Ryan Williams from injury.

Captain Jake Wright, Andy Whing and Jon Meades still remain a few weeks away.

Another loss for Hawks, while Witney win derby

HENLEY Hawks' miserable run in the RFU National League 1 continued on Saturday, as they were beaten 36-10 away at Doncaster.

The result means that the Hawks have won just once in their last nine matches, and have slipped down to 13th in

the league table.

They will be back in action on Saturday, as they host fifth-placed Blaydon as they try and get their season back on track.

In one of the other games to survive the weather at the weekend, Witney comfortably beat Grove 17-0 in their Oxfordshire

derby.

Witney are now up to fourth in the South West 1 East, while Grove have dropped to ninth.

Grove are scheduled to travel to Maidenhead on Saturday, while Witney make the journey to Swindon.

Elsewhere, Oxford Harlequins

trip to Windsor and Chinnor's visit to Bishops Cleeve were both called off because of the bad weather.

They will hope to return to action at the weekend, with Harlequins hosting Buckingham and Chinnor playing Clifton at home.

Williams announce new sponsor deal

WILLIAMS F1 has announced a new partnership with insurance company Genworth, who will appear as a sponsor on the car for this season onwards.

The news comes as the Grove-based team prepare for the final two pre-season tests in Bahrain, taking place from February 19 to 23 and February 27 to March 2.

Williams have yet to reveal the livery they will be using for the season, and are not expected to unveil their chosen colour scheme and sponsor decals until the first race of the season on March 16 in Australia.

Speaking about the new

partnership, team founder Sir Frank Williams said: "I'm delighted to welcome a brand of Genworth's pedigree to the team for the 2014 season and beyond."

"We're looking forward to working in close collaboration to help them maximise the benefits that come from a close association with Williams and Formula One."

Peter Barrett, global managing director at Genworth, said: "We are excited to become a partner to Williams."

"The Williams business, and the strong ideals and foundations that it is built on, are very closely aligned to Genworth's core values."

• Valtteri Bottas (pictured) driving at this month's test in Jerez, Spain (Picture courtesy of Williams F1)



Sport Bites

City called off

OXFORD City's match against AFC Telford in the Conference North fell foul of the weather on Saturday, as did their game against Banbury United in the Oxfordshire Senior Cup on Tuesday night.

City have only played three times in 2014, comprised of two losses and a draw, and are currently 20th in the league standings with 23 points.

They will hope to return to action on Saturday, as they make the trip to league leaders North Ferriby United.

Win for OU

OXFORD University's hockey team came out on top in their derby match with Oxford Hawks, as they won 4-2 on Saturday.

The scores had been level at half-time, before OU were able to pull ahead and take the victory, as they had done when the two teams last played each other in October.

OU are now fourth in the South League Premier 1 with 28 points, while Hawks have fallen to eighth with 18 points.

Deta loses

OXFORD county darts player Deta Hedman went out in the quarter final stages of the BDO World Trophy, held in Blackpool last week.

This was the first major tournament since Hedman lost in the BDO World Championship final in January, and she made a good start by whitewashing Casey Gallagher 4-0 in the first round.

However her average of 72 was not enough to overcome German player Irina Armstrong, and she lost 5-3.

The tournament was won by former champion Anastasia Dobromyslova of Russia.

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ZOLDAN FEARS FIXTURE PILE-UP

Persistent rain decimating U's schedule after another cancellation

By Jack Johnson

jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

ABINGDON United manager Andy Zoldan believes the recent torrential weather hinders his side's chances of avoiding relegation from the Hellenic Premier Division.

United's game at Shrivenham last week was called off due to the weather and this weekend's home match against Kidlington is also in doubt.

Zoldan's side are second from bottom in the league table, five points off potential safety.

However, United have not played since their penalty shoot-out victory over AFC Hinksey in the 'Bluefin Sports' Challenge Cup on January 25.

"All the games that seem to be getting called off at the moment are against teams we were hoping to get points against," said Zoldan.

"So come the end of the season we have got some tough games coming up.

"We've got to play Wantage twice but I can end up seeing us playing them two games on the trot having played no one else before then so it does hinder it for me.

"I'd have rather of played the Shrivenham, Holyport, and Bracknell games because, in my opinion, we would look a lot healthier going into the tougher games."

Zoldan believes cutting down the cup competitions would help



• Jack Bernasconi (right) is unavailable for Abingdon United this weekend (Picture by Chris Janes)

to free up the fixture list earlier on in the season.

He said: "If you're involved in the FA Vase, FA Cup early doors, your fixtures do then build up and you're not playing as many league games.

"You've also got the Floodlit Cup, the Bluefin Cup, there are a lot of cups that you are in and that is why, I think, we have a problem.

"As the season goes on in to this poor weather period you

always end up in the last month of the season having to play three games a week.

"I think the Floodlit could be one of those that could go. It is an unnecessary cup because you have already got the league cup.

"The FA Vase and the FA Cup, they are the ones you want to be in and also the league cup, and that's it. The county cup is one that could go but people like it."

United will be without Jack Bernasconi, Kevin Rookes and Josh

Cottrell (all unavailable) if Saturday's match beats the weather.



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